

## NEWS

### Health Dept. will serve as smoking police

District Health Department #10 officials will be serving as the smoking police when a state ban on smoking goes into effect next month.

Michigan's Clean Indoor Act Bill, which prohibits smoking in bars and restaurants, goes into effect on May 1.

Linda VanGils, the Health Officer for District Health Department #10, said health officials expect restaurant owners, managers and employees will be self-policing to avoid smoking ban fines. A public place, which violates the act, is subject to a civil fine not more than \$100 for a first violation and not more than \$500 for a subsequent violation. 9A

## SPORTS

### GHS golfers get ready for 2010 season



Grayling High School's varsity boys golf team has a new coach this year and a solid foundation of upperclassmen, including one senior who placed second at the state finals last year.

Dan DesEnfants, who's been an assistant coach for the GHS varsity baseball team for the last few seasons, is the new coach of the golf squad.

With the favorable weather prior to spring break, the Vikings were able to get out on the course during their pre-season workouts. Coach DesEnfants said their initial practices included "lots of work at the driving range." 11A

### Girls tennis to return as a spring sport



After going through season changes, cancellations, and a fusion with the boys tennis team, girls tennis is now back as a varsity sport at Grayling High School.

In 2007, girls tennis moved to the spring and boys tennis moved to the fall during the Michigan High School Athletic Association's season realignment effort, a series of moves prompted by a court ruling in a gender equity lawsuit. Also in 2007, Grayling High School cut girls tennis but encouraged its female tennis players to play on a coed team in the fall with the boys tennis program. In the fall of 2009, the boys/coed tennis season was canceled due to low player numbers, but GHS opted to try a revival of girls tennis in the spring, as long as there were enough participants. 10A

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# Crawford County Avalanche

Grayling's Hometown Newspaper Since 1879

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Thursday, April 15, 2010

## County protests state acquiring more land while not paying taxes

by Dan Sanderson

Staff Writer

The Crawford County Board of Commissioners agreed to fire a letter off to Gov. Jennifer M. Granholm and state lawmakers, protesting the state acquiring more land while still giving itself its own tax breaks.

The action to send the letter to Granholm, Sen. Tony Stamas, R-Midland, and Rep. Andy Neumann,

D-Alpena, was prompted by a presentation on 2009 delinquent taxes from Crawford County Treasurer Joe Wakeley.

The county board agreed to issue no more than \$2 million in bonds to pay to cover unpaid delinquent taxes for 2009. As taxes are paid, the bonds will be paid off and interest with go into the county's general fund and to help fund the treasurer's office.

Wakeley said the amount of unpaid taxes was up \$238,500 from last year.

Wakeley said the county collected \$300,000 in back taxes in March, and expects to collect a similar amount in April. That will lower the amount of money the county will borrow to cover the delinquent taxes.

Wakeley said 8 to 10 percent of property owners in the county have

unpaid taxes. He added that rate was as much as 25 percent years ago. He attributed the decrease to banks and lenders requiring home and property owners to pay taxes through escrow accounts.

"It helps with getting the taxes paid, but they may still have some issues with mortgage foreclosures," Wakeley said.

On that note, Wakeley said the

See COUNTY 11A



Photo courtesy of Thomas Buhr

Thanks to a "Trout in the Classroom" project, seventh graders at Grayling Middle School are becoming well versed in the life cycles of brown trout and how much effort goes into taking care of the young fish. Above, nearly 400 trout raised and nurtured by the students will soon be released into the AuSable River.



Grayling attorney Dave Sabin became immediately interested in the welfare of "Little Mary" after she was left on the steps of the emergency room at Mercy Hospital Grayling 40 years ago. "Little Mary" would become Cindy Lu Sabin. Above, is a photo of Cindy Lu Sabin when she was just over 8 months old.

## Trout in the Classroom project has fish ready to release into river

They were unaware that fish ate each other, but now they know that and much more.

Thanks to a "Trout in the Classroom" project, seventh graders at Grayling Middle School are becoming well versed in the life cycles of brown trout and, especially, how much effort goes into taking care of the young fish.

It's given them a better appreciation for the world famous trout stream right in their backyard.

"We wanted to give students an idea of the life in the river," said Carrie Wilkinson, who teaches science at the school and spearheaded the project. "They grew up near a great coldwater fishing river and had no idea about it."

The Mason-Griffith Chapter of Trout Unlimited sponsors the project. They donated the tank and purchased the necessary equipment including a water chiller — trout fry prefer water around 50 degrees — and a UV sterilizer to kill germs. The trout were bought from the Cedarbrook Trout Farm in Harrisville. The total cost was about \$1,000.

The trout arrived as 500 eyed-eggs in mid-January, meaning they were still eggs but with two

visible eyes. They hatched into sac fry — think of a fish swimming around with a bulging belly bigger than it is — at the beginning of February.

The sac, a food source, is long gone, now the fish are about an inch and a half long and classified as fingerlings.

The seventh grade science class consists of about 150 students. Groups of students take turns caring for the fish every day under the watchful eye of Wilkinson and two other science teachers, Brad Wagner and Joell Gabriel.

"She was always stressed at first," said seventh grader Hailey Eames about Wilkinson's concern for the student's care of the young trout. "Now, she knows we can do the job."

The students feed the fish three times a day, test the chemical levels of the water, clean the tank and keep a daily log of activities. Wilkinson and the other teachers take over on weekends and holidays.

In a short time, the classes became very protective of the fish, mourning the death of each fry. When an ammonia spike in the water, due to excessive waste, killed 30 in one day, there was great anxiety. Fortunately, the

plan is to release the fish into the river around the end of April.

"The longer in our tank the better chance for their survival," Wilkinson said. "We all want that."

problem was resolved. Nearly 400 of the trout remain and are thriving thanks to the diligence of the students.

"These fish are about five weeks ahead of schedule on their growth," said Steve Sendek, Senior Fisheries Biologist for the Department of Natural Resources and Environment (DNR & E) and member of the Mason Griffith Board of Directors. "That reflects well on their care."

The students are excited about doing it again next year. They enjoyed watching the fish grow and go through all the life stages. During a semester of observing trout going from eggs to fingerlings they understood why fish need shelter to survive from predators. The experience has changed the way they view the AuSable River.

"It gives you an open mind about river habitat," said seventh grader Laura Simpson. "We need to keep the water clean and put more logs in."

The plan is to release the fish into the river around the end of April.

"The longer in our tank the better chance for their survival," Wilkinson said. "We all want that."

moved to Florida because she is taking care of family business.

The city council will interview applicants for the vacancy from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Monday, April 26. The work session and interviews are open to the public.

Each council member will submit questions that the applicants will answer. City Council Member Kim McClain said the council used the same procedure when filling a

vacancy four years ago.

## Woman left at hospital as newborn baby seeks information

by Dan Sanderson

Staff Writer

Just over 40 years ago, Mother Nature delivered a snowstorm to Grayling. At the same time a parent or couple delivered a newborn baby to Mercy Hospital Grayling's Emergency Room who became known as "Little Mary."

Al Harland, a Mercy Hospital Grayling maintenance employee, saw something on the steps to the hospital as he was plowing snow in a parking lot at 7:20 a.m. on Jan. 26, 1970. When Harland got out of the truck, he heard a crying baby and then found the infant wrapped in a shirt, crib blanket and small bedspread. The baby weighed 5 lbs and 6 ounces, was 18 and 3/4 inches-long and had red hair.

Grayling attorney Dave Sabin became immediately interested in the welfare of "Little Mary."

After a few weeks in the hospital, "Little Mary" went to live with a foster parent Carolyn Hatley, who lived in a home that

See WOMAN 18A

## Five apply for vacant city council seat

by Dan Sanderson

Staff Writer

Five applicants have filed to fill a vacancy on the Grayling City Council.

Larry Curriston, Heidi Farmer, Dennis Palmer, Dennis Robinson and David Sherbert have applied to fill an unexpired term on the Grayling City Council.

Dee Maybury submitted her resignation to the Grayling City Council on March 16. Maybury has

moved to Florida because she is taking care of family business.

The city council will interview applicants for the vacancy from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Monday, April 26. The work session and interviews are open to the public.

Each council member will submit questions that the applicants will answer. City Council Member Kim McClain said the council used the same procedure when filling a

vacancy four years ago.

A rating system and grid will be produced to help the city council compare the applicants and find the person best suited person to fill the vacancy.

"It kind of takes some partiality out of it," McClain said.

The council may fill the vacancy at its regular meeting, scheduled for 7 p.m. on Monday, April 26.

Maybury ran unopposed in November 2009, to fill the unexpired term on the city council.

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# A Brook Retirement Community coming to Grayling by hospital

by Dan Sanderson  
Staff Writer

City officials and planners have given the partners of the Brook Retirement Community approval to build a facility on property near Mercy Hospital Grayling.

The Grayling City Council approved a use variance for the Brook Retirement Community.

Instead of being 20 units, Bill Carey, a Grayling attorney and Brook Retirement Community partner, said the firm needed 24 units to make the project economically feasible.

"It will not cash flow with 20 units, therefore we are seeking the additional four

units," Carey told the Grayling City Council.

The Brook Retirement Community has facilities in Roscommon, West Branch, Houghton Lake, Gladwin and Cheboygan. Those facilities are 42 units.

While the Brook Retirement Community partners have been eying Grayling for a while, Carey said Grayling's demographics do not support a large facility.

Carey, Roscommon building contractor Jerry DeWitt, and the Brook Retirement Community CEO Diane Friedreichsen look forward to seeing how the smaller venture works out in Grayling.

"It's always a little bit of a guess, but we think it will work, and we're kind of excited to see how it works out," Carey said.

Ottawa Street, Erie Street and Rose Street bound the property where the facility will be located. Four residential properties were consolidated for the project. Those homes will be demolished in the next two months.

"The homes are all to a point where they have outlived their usefulness," Carey said.

Carey said the facility would provide a great buffer between residential and commercial property. A privacy fence will be erected to

ensure the privacy of senior citizens and cut down on noise.

Grayling businessman Dave Jansen applauded the Brook partners for bringing the facility to the community.

"We can use the jobs," he said. "We can use the tax base."

The Brook partners plan for a four-month build, with hopes of having the facility open for occupancy by Jan. 1, 2011.

Carey said the facility would have a workforce of 12 to 15 full-time employees.

"That ranges from nurses all the way to house cleaners," he said.

## Noted Reelsmith will appear at AuSable Expo on April 24-25

Dan Bonamie, chairman of the AuSable Expo Planning Team, announced that Michael Hackney will be the featured presenter at the Expo on Saturday and Sunday, April 24-25.

Bonamie said that the Expo Planning Team is thrilled to bring Hackney as the feature presenter to the Expo for its second year.

Hackney, who describes himself as an "Eclectic Angler," lives in central

Massachusetts near the Squannacook and Nissitissit Rivers. The 2010 Expo will feature various presentations and workshops throughout the entire Expo. Hackney will give a presentation on Saturday and will hold a workshop on Sunday.

Hackney teaches individuals the basic techniques of creating and assembling reels and has a web forum to allow for continued communication and input. His workshop describes the tools, supplies and materials needed to begin the craft of reelsmithing, various techniques and how to put it all together. He works with workshop participants to allow them to customize the basic reel and teaches techniques so they can start to design their own fly reels.

Hackney recently authored *The Reelsmith's Primer: The Art of Hand-crafting Fly Fishing Reels*, available through Whitefish Press. Expo participants can have the support resources of a book and a web forum to help them continue reelsmithing once they get started at the presentation and workshop. On Saturday, April 24, Hackney will give an overview of making fly fishing reels by hand from 2:30 p.m. to 3:10 p.m. in the Birch Room at the Ramada Inn-Grayling.

Come learn how to make your own fly reel with a few simple tools and materials. A workshop entitled "A Reelsmithing Primer's Workshop" will be offered on Sunday, April 25, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., for those

interested in constructing their own reel with Hackney's personal instruction. This workshop will help you construct a fly-fishing reel by guiding you through the steps of construction and assembly using simple tools. Participants will learn the basic techniques of design and construction so they can design and construct their own fly reels. Material kits are available for purchase. The workshop is limited to eight participants. Pre-registration is recommended. To register, contact Susan Thiel at [Thiel1@michigan.gov](mailto:Thiel1@michigan.gov) or call (989) 348-6371 ext. 7440.

For more information about Hackney and reelsmithing, visit [www.reelsmithing.com](http://www.reelsmithing.com).

Sponsors of the AuSable Expo are the Grayling Promotional Association and the North Central Michigan Community Foundation. For more information about the upcoming Expo, contact Bonamie at (989) 710-1194, or check online at [www.ausableexpo.com](http://www.ausableexpo.com), or at <http://www.upnorthlive.com>.

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# Man who had marijuana stolen awaits sentencing

by Dan Sanderson  
Staff Writer

A 54-year-old Frederic man, who lived in a house where 12 pounds of marijuana was stolen in February, will face a lower sentence because of a plea deal reached with prosecutors.

Richard James Austin pled guilty to one count of controlled substance/possession of marijuana on Wednesday, March 31. He faces up to a year in jail and a \$2,000 fine, when he is sentenced for the high-court misdemeanor on Tuesday, April 27.

A day before entering the plea, Crawford County Prosecutors agreed to drop

two counts for controlled substance delivery/manufacture marijuana charges. Austin faced up to four years in prison and a \$20,000 for those charges.

Austin's home was broken into on Feb. 9. As Crawford County Deputies Ryan Swope and Jason Alexander were on their way to investigate an unrelated breaking and entering, Alexander saw two men carrying garbage bags over their shoulders walking north on Old US-27. The men fled into the woods upon observing Alexander's police cruiser.

Deputy Alexander gave foot pursuit assisted by

Deputy Swope and the men were taken into custody. They were found to be in possession of a large amount of marijuana, a rifle and a safe.

The men admitted to breaking into Austin's residence, which was unrelated to the initial breaking and entering complaint deputies were called to investigate, and stealing the marijuana.

Deputies went to the residence, made contact with Austin, who stated that his house had just been broken into. Austin acknowledged that the marijuana was his. Deputies seized approximately 12 pounds of mari-

juana, the weapon and a large amount of money. Crawford County Sheriff Kirk Wakefield estimated that the street value for the marijuana was between \$25,000 and \$30,000.

Pete Daniel Merithew, 28 of Frederic, and his brother, Russ Lee Merithew, age 26, were each charged with a half-dozen felonies in connection with the burglary of Austin's home. The brothers are listed as co-defendants for Austin's court case.

Last week, the court cases for the Merithew brothers were bound over to Crawford County Circuit Court for trial.

## Dr. Lisa Harrington honored as Hometown Health Hero

The Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) – in conjunction with its partners in local public health across the state – is celebrating Michigan Public Health Week, April 11-17.

This year's theme, "A Healthier America: One Community at a Time," embraces the concept of improving America's health system in one generation. If every person commits to promoting good health in their community, we can create momentum to improve one community at a time. Healthier communities create a healthier nation.

One of Grayling's own – Dr. Lisa Harrington – was honored in a special celebration on Wednesday, April 14, in the Capitol Rotunda in Lansing.

Harrington was instrumental in bringing together key community members to live."

establish the AuSable Free Clinic in 2005 and served as the medical director. The clinic has provided quality health care for more 12,000 low income and uninsured citizens.

Dr. Harrington is one of 12 individuals to receive the prestigious Hometown Health Hero award. The department and its partners will also recognize five legislators as "Public Policy Champions" for their efforts in championing the new Clean Air Bill into law.

"In order to live a healthier life, a person must have access to health care and Dr. Harrington has made sure that people in her community have that access," said MDCH Director Janet Olszewski. "Dr. Harrington is truly dedicated to the health and well-being of her community and she has helped her community become a healthier place to live."

To learn more about Michigan Public Health Week and events taking place across the state this week, please visit:

[www.michigan.gov/mdch](http://www.michigan.gov/mdch) and click on the "A Healthier America" icon on the left side of the Web page.

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April 27th  
6:00-7:00 p.m.

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Saturday May 22nd  
(4) Person Team Scramble  
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# Issues and Opinions



## Almanack

by Richard Milliman

## Michigan Democrats start ball rolling

**PACKAGING IS** an important part in the business world.

Michigan Democrats are adapting packaging principles to politics by jamming an entire bundle of relative political thrills into a single weekend for the party faithful, hoping to provide a jump start for their important 2010 election efforts in the process.

It all will take place this weekend in Detroit.

The Jefferson Jackson dinner, an annual Democratic gala designed to raise both money and partisan fervor, will be Saturday night, April 17. Sometimes the dinner is successful, sometimes not so much. It's part of a weekend package this year.

Keynote speaker will be US Rep. Steny Hoyer of Maryland, Democratic floor leader in the House and second in command there behind only Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

As an aside, Speaker Pelosi will be on the California ballot this year, not in Michigan, despite Republican campaigners who feature anti-Pelosi rhetoric in much of their campaign material this year, especially anything involving congressional campaigns.

With three Democrats running for nomination for governor this year, a candidate forum is completely in keeping with traditional political strategy. That, too, is part

of the weekend package, set for Sunday morning.

Separate tickets from the Jeff-Jack dinner are required for the joint appearance – definitely not labeled as a debate but rather as “a candidate forum” – which will bring together House Speaker Andy Dillon, Lansing Mayor Virgil Bernero and State Rep. Alma Wheeler Smith in their first face-to-face-to-face campaign meeting.

\* \* \*

THE THIRD PART of this Democratic clambake is more intriguing and novel.

Early endorsement, according to published party logic, allows Democratic candidates extra time to round up name recognition, money and voter support. Instead of a two month campaign – from post-primary convention to November election – endorsed Democratic candidates can conduct six month campaigns.

Whether longer campaigns will be helpful is open to question, but that's the strategy.

The “endorsement convention” will start Saturday morning, prior to the Jeff-Jack dinner. Eligible to vote in the convention will be elected Democratic office holders and candidates, Democratic precinct delegates already elected, and all card-carrying members of the Democratic party who have

paid annual dues of \$30 and have been signed-up party members for at least 30 days.

At this point, endorsements will be made only for secretary of state and attorney general candidates. Two are running for attorney general:

Richard Bernstein, 36, is current chair of the Wayne State University board of governors. He has gained widespread public awareness through incessant television advertising as part of the Bernstein family law practice. He is blind.

David Leyton, 56, is in his second term as Genesee county prosecutor, and held several local government offices before the prosecutor's job. He is sighted.

For secretary of state, Democrats likely will choose between two candidates from Detroit – Jocelyn Benson, faculty member of the law school at Wayne State, and Janice Winfrey, Detroit city clerk.

The two endorsements from Saturday's convention must win formal nomination at the regular party nominating convention following the August 5 primary. However, since many of the same delegates will have the power at both conventions, Saturday's endorsements likely will become the real thing.

Candidates for the rest of the

state offices on the November ballot to be selected at the post-primary convention include two members of the governing boards for Wayne State, University of Michigan and Michigan State, plus two members of the State Board of Education.

Two seats on the state supreme court also will be filled at the November election, and each major party may nominate two candidates, who then run on judicial, not partisan, ballots. Of course, this system abets a political charade.

The lieutenant governor candidate will be picked at the same convention, probably the personal choice of the eventual governor candidate.

\* \* \*

HOW COME the early and novel idea of an endorsement convention?

The stated reasons hold merit.

The early convention arouses early enthusiasm among the party faithful and identifies activists who are likely to become campaign workers through the November election.

As party leaders have indicated, it also provides extra time for candidates to campaign, which can be both a blessing and a curse, because both voters and candidates – plus donors – may grow tired of the campaign long before election

day.

One of the unspoken advantages for party leadership – especially if the idea of an “endorsement convention” should expand to cover more than the two offices included now – involves control.

By an “endorsement convention” four months before top-of-the-ticket party candidates are chosen by primary voters, current party leaders have more influence on who will be on the statewide ticket, and the eventual party standard bearer running for governor has less influence.

Traditionally party nominating conventions are filled with paying off political obligations and horse trading of this for that, with the candidate for governor – as head of the ticket and nominated by party primary voters – pretty much in the driver's seat.

Also, premature endorsement conceivably could produce a ticket that is incompatible with the eventual candidate for governor, and party unity could shatter.

An early endorsement convention tends to shift the balance of power inwardly, either by unexpected inevitability or by design.

# # #

*Richard Milliman is a veteran newspaperman, and a contributing columnist to several Michigan newspapers.*

### Crawford County Avalanche

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Check us out on the Internet:

[crawfordcountyavalanche.com](http://crawfordcountyavalanche.com)

The opinions expressed in the letters and columns on this page are solely those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of the Crawford County Avalanche.

## What Do You Think?

Join in the discussion online. The Crawford County Avalanche welcomes its readers to comment on news, features, and opinion articles – including letters to the editor and Richard Milliman's weekly Almanack column – on our Internet site at [www.crawfordcountyavalanche.com](http://www.crawfordcountyavalanche.com).

To express an opinion on a news, feature, or op-ed article, click on a story and scroll down to the “What do you think?” header (it's highlighted with a red color bar). Fill in your name and type your comments in the area provided, and click the “Post Comment” icon when finished. Existing comments are listed between the “What do you think?” header and the area to post new comments. Readers are also welcome to respond to comments posted by other readers.

All comments are subject to approval by Crawford County Avalanche management prior to publication on our Internet site. Comments are limited to 200 words.

Recent editions of the Avalanche have generated the following responses:

17 blogs on this article: “Despite a letter from Grayling's chief financial officer urging reinstatement of the Grayling City Manager to get through troubled economic times, the Grayling City Council appointed its police chief to handle administrative duties for the community last week. Grayling Police Chief Doug Baum was appointed to serve as the acting Grayling City Manager by the Grayling City Council on Monday, Feb. 8. The city council placed City Manager David A. Thayer on administrative leave on Feb. 22

Suspended

while he faces alleged charges for violating the state's Social Security Privacy Act.”

4 blogs on this article: “After just over 13 months from initially being arrested for allegedly illegally selling diesel fuel to an ambulance company that services Crawford County, Beaver Creek Township's Fire Chief was again charged in Crawford County District Court. Edward Richard Holtcamp, 72, was arraigned in Crawford County District Court on a misdemeanor charge of Taxes-Motor Fuel Tax Act-General Violations on Wednesday, Feb. 10.”

6 blogs on this article: “After a marathon of debate and discussion last week, the Crawford County Board of Commissioners voted to open up all county roads to ORV and ATV travel 365 days a year, 24 hours a day and seven days a week. The change will go into effect 50 days after a public notice is published in the Crawford County Avalanche on Thursday, April 1, said Crawford County Administrator Paul Compo.”

22 blogs on this article: “A Grayling City Council member, who gave information to authorities, which led to the arrest of the city manager, submitted her letter of resignation to the Grayling City Council last week. Grayling City Clerk Michele Mosher said Dee Maybury submitted her resignation to the Grayling City Council – via e-mail – on Tuesday, March 16. Maybury said the resignation was effective immediately.”

22 blogs on this article: “Common municipal budgeting practices or cooking the books? Suspended

Manager David A. Thayer was arrested on another misdemeanor charge last week. Crawford County Undersheriff Shawn Krayes arrested Thayer on Thursday, March 25, for a charge of public officers-making false statements relating to finances. Thayer faces up to 90 days in jail and a \$500 fine, if convicted.”

12 blogs on this article: “It will be a couple of weeks before Chief Family Court/District Court Judge Monte J. Burmeister decides the fate of two pit bulls. Burmeister heard an additional five and a half hours of testimony in an evidentiary hearing on Monday to determine the ultimate fate of Shelby and Riley, a pair of pit bulls owned by Dawn and Ken Minard. The dogs have been held at the AuSable Valley Animal Shelter for the last year and a half.”

10 blogs on this article: “The Crawford County Board of Commissioners agreed to put a ballot proposal on the Aug. 3 primary election ballot to renew the Crawford County Sheriff's Department's 24-hour road patrol millage. The county board, at its monthly ways and means meeting last week, voted to place a .08917 mill renewal on the ballot. The board will consider the recommendation at its next regular monthly meeting set for 9 a.m. on Wednesday, April 21.”

12 blogs on this article: “The Grayling City Council will accept applications for a vacant seat on the city panel. Grayling Mayor Karl Schreiner said the Grayling City Charter calls for the council to seek applications when there is a vacancy on the board.”

<http://www.crawfordcountyavalanche.com>

## AVALANCHE DEADLINES

**Community Briefs** items submitted to the Crawford County Avalanche must be turned in to the office by Monday noon, to appear in that week's issue.

**Photographs** must be turned in to the office by noon on Friday for consideration in the next issue.

**News items and letters** should be submitted on 8 1/2-x-11 inch paper, typed, and double-spaced.

**Classified ads** by the word must be

turned in by Tuesday noon and have to be paid for in advance or they will not be published.

**Classified display ads** must be turned in by Monday noon.

**Full page, half page, or color display ads** must be turned in by Thursday at 5 p.m.

**The deadline for all display ads smaller than a half page is Friday at 5 p.m.**

## Letters to the Editor

### Be courteous and free up the pump

To the editor:

I have a pet peeve I need to vent before my head explodes. Here is the scenario:

I leave for work in the morning and notice my gas gauge is at or below a quarter of a tank.

Since I work in Gaylord, I decide to fill up. Now to be fair, at this time in the morning the gas station is usually busy and every pump is being used.

So I pull in behind someone who is fueling and wait for him to finish.

Here is the rub. He will nonchalantly look back at me, finish fueling and leisurely stroll into the station. So, I sit and wait, and wait some more.

If I am lucky, I can catch another pump before someone else grabs it. When I go inside to pay, this is the part that really grinds me, you see the guy

who was ahead of you at the pump either sipping on a cup of coffee wandering aimlessly around the station or standing with a buddy shooting the breeze.

Now this doesn't happen every time, but enough to ruffle my feathers.

My point is, if you want to socialize or do some shopping in the station, at least be courteous enough to move to the parking area and free up the pump.

Please show some common sense and free up the pump for someone else who may be on a time schedule.

I would prefer to support Grayling businesses, but there have been times that I have given up and gassed up in Waters or Gaylord instead of waiting.

Please think a little bit.

James Allman

Grayling

### Tea Party groups aren't the only ones with free speech rights

To the editor:

It's awfully suspicious when they shout down people who want to hear about health care as if they are the only ones with free speech rights.

The Tea Parties that are going on throughout our area and nationally are only extensions of the Republican Party.

Where were they when Bush was in office. He never paid for anything. He put trillions of dollars on the taxpayers credit card.

It's awfully suspicious when they shout down people who want to hear about health care as if they are the only ones with free speech rights.

The Tea Parties that are going on throughout our area and nationally are only extensions of the Republican Party.

Where were they when Bush was in office. He never paid for anything. He put trillions of dollars on the taxpayers credit card.

John Hayes

Grayling

# Briefs

## COA to host Spring Dinner

The Grayling Senior Center, 308 Lawndale St., will hold a Spring Dinner on April 15 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. The meal will consist of pork loin, fresh asparagus, boiled red skins, chunky applesauce and lemon pie. The meal is open to the public. The cost is \$2.50 for those over age 60 and \$5.25 for those under 60. A salad bar is available for an additional \$2.25.

## Crawford County Democrats to meet

The Crawford County Democrats will hold their regular meeting on Thursday, April 15, at 6 p.m., at the Grayling Township Hall. They will also hold their "Coffee with the Democrats" on Saturday, April 24, 10 a.m., at Thanks A Latte/Flowers By Josie. All are welcome. [crawfordcountydems.org](http://crawfordcountydems.org).

## McNamara to perform at dinner show

Mary Liz McNamara will perform as part of the Grayling Promotional Association Entertainment Series with a dinner show at the Ramada Inn in Grayling, on Thursday, April 15. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Tickets are available for \$35 uptown Grayling at Riverland or at the door. For more information call 989-348-2921.

## Crawford County Republicans to meet

The Crawford County Republicans will meet at the Crawford County Courthouse on Thursday, April 15, at 7 p.m. Upcoming events will be discussed. Speaker will be Jeff Lamb, First Congressional District Republican Chair.

## Boy Scouts to host brunch fund raiser

Boy Scout Troop 979 is hosting a fund raiser brunch at St. Francis Church on Sunday, April 18, from noon to 2 p.m. Cost is \$5 per person. For more information Call 710-1027

## Community calendar available online

The Crawford County Avalanche has a community calendar on their new Web site. To view area happenings, or to be considered for publication of your event, go to [crawfordcountyavalanche.com](http://crawfordcountyavalanche.com), click on community and go to the community calendar.

## Sheriff's Report

Crawford County Sheriff Kirk Wakefield reports his office handled the following 85 complaints the week of March 29 - April 4.

One EMS complaint, 18 general non-criminal complaints, one false alarm activation, two assault-intimidation-stalkings, three burglary/home invasions, four larcenies, one larceny-other, one motor vehicle theft, one damage to property, one sex offense/indecent exposure, one minor in possession/consume/purchase attempt, one making false report, 13 public peace disorders, one OUIL/UBAL, two health and safeties, one conservation, two miscellaneous criminal offenses, three miscellaneous arrests, three traffic accidents, one accident-non-traffic, two traffic violations-civil infractions, one traffic safety public appearance, one lost and found property, five family troubles-domestic, eight suspicious situations, four driving violations/driving while license suspended and one driving on revoked/suspended license.

Sheriff Wakefield reports his office handled the following 87 complaints the week of April 5-11.

One suicide, one missing person, 16 general non-criminal complaints, one delinquent minor, three false alarm activations, one assault-intimidation-stalking, one assault and battery/simple assault, three burglaries/home invasions, seven larcenies, two fraudulent activities, three damage to properties, one drug/narcotic violations, seven public peace disorders, four health and safeties, four miscellaneous criminal offenses, four traffic accidents, one accident-non-traffic, two traffic violations-civil infractions, six family troubles-domestic and 19 suspicious situations.

## Senior Citizen News

Join us for a meal either at noon or 5 p.m. weekdays, except Friday, when there is no evening meal. Soup or salad bar served prior to the meal Monday through Thursday.

This week's menu (lunch/dinner) and activities:

Friday, April 16 - Lunch - Italian sausage with green pepper and onions, baked potato, Italian blend vegetables and grapes. 10 a.m. card golf, 12 p.m. Lovells Satellite Meal, 1 p.m. Pantry Bingo.

Sunday, April 18 - Sunday Brunch, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. homemade french toast, scrambled eggs, sausage, fruit salad, orange juice and milk.

Monday, April 19 - Lunch - beef goulash, corn, cauliflower and mixed fruit. Dinner - swiss steak, boiled potatoes, green beans and plums. 10 a.m. Back on Duty, 1 p.m. Bridge and Clogging, 2:30 p.m. Bunco, 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. hearing clinic (appointment required.)

Tuesday, April 20 - Lunch - baked ham with apple glaze, baked beans, Walk-ins are welcome.

cole slaw and pineapple. 10 a.m. Dinner - meat loaf, cauliflower, scalloped potatoes and mandarin oranges. 10 a.m. Bible Study, 1 p.m. Euchre and CCC meeting, 4 p.m. - 5 p.m. blood pressure checks.

Wednesday, April 21 - Lunch - Barbecue chicken breast, stuffing, mixed vegetables, sliced carrots, mixed vegetables and an orange. Dinner - turkey, mashed potatoes, corn, cranberry sauce, pears and caramel apple walnut salad. 10 a.m. Mahjong and line dancing, 12:30 p.m. Soup/Salad Bar Discussion with Director, 1 p.m. pool league and Wii Bowling.

Thursday, April 22 - Lunch - salisbury steak, mashed potatoes with gravy, wax beans, peaches and a cookie. Dinner - lasagna, broccoli, cauliflower and oranges and grapefruit. 10 a.m. craft class, 1 p.m. UNO Attack.

The Crawford County Commission on Aging's Senior Center is located at 308 Lawndale, behind Burger King in Grayling. Walk-ins are welcome.

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## Range Firing

Small Arms Ranges located west of Lake Margrethe, north of Howe Rd., east of the gas pipeline and south of Portage Creek, April 22-28.

Range 15, located south of the main post, bounded on the west by Cadillac Rd. and on the east by Carrier Rd., April 23-24 and 28.

Range 17, Hand Grenade Range located south of the main post, north of Carrier Rd., east of range 13 and west of Beaver Creek (Military Rd.), April 23.

Range 18, located west of Lake Margrethe, north of Howe Rd., east of the gas pipeline and north of Portage Creek, April 22-26.

The Range 40 Complex, Air to Ground, located north of County Rd. 612, east of Guthrie Lake, south of Old State Rd. 618, and west of County Rd. F97 (Twin Bridge Rd.), April 22-23 and 26-28.

The Range 40 Complex, located north of County Rd. 612, east of Sherman Rd., south of Old State Rd. 618, and west of County Rd. F97 (Twin Bridge Rd.), April 23-27.

Heavy weapons range firing is scheduled from sunrise until three hours after

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# The Bible Speaks

## The Distress of Religion by Works

We studied last week in Romans 11:7 that Israel's religion by self seeking or works will not be successful, submissive, or satisfying. What then? Israel hath not obtained that which he seeketh for; but the election hath obtained it, and the rest were blinded." Today we study the distress of religion by self seeking or works in Romans 11:8: "8(According as it is written, God hath given them the spirit of slumber, eyes that they should not see, and ears that they should not hear;) unto this day."

First, distress over seeking salvation by works of the law was foretold to Israel by God's prophets through God's word. The cause of their distress would be their own rebellion as Ezekiel 12:2 states: "2Son of man, thou dwellest in the midst of a rebellious house, which have eyes to see, and see not; they have ears to hear, and hear not: for they are a rebellious house." Because Israel shut their eyes and closed their ears to God's word and will, that majority was further blinded and hardened by God's judgment: "10Make the heart of this people fat, and

make their ears heavy, and shut their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and convert, and be healed." (Isaiah 6:10).

Jesus reminded the Jews of this in Matthew 13:14,15: "14And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias, which saith, By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive: 15For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them." This is why Jesus taught in parables. (Luke 8:10).

Second, Israel's distress for seeking salvation by works was assured by a God-given spirit of slumber. This started by the fault of their own leaders as stated in Isaiah 56:10: "10His watchmen are blind: they are all ignorant, they are all dumb dogs, they cannot bark; sleeping, lying down, loveling to slumber." Then God judged them for their sin in Isaiah 56:10: "10For the LORD hath poured out upon you the spirit of deep sleep, and hath closed your eyes: the prophets and your rulers, the seers hath he covered." Hosea

4:6 reminded us that is why God temporarily laid aside the nation of Israel: "6My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children."

Third, Israel's distress for seeking salvation by works was assured by their spiritual blindness so that they could not see. Jesus spoke of this over and over. He said in Matthew 15:14: "14Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch." This is why Jesus said in John 3:1-7 one must be born-again to see or enter into the Kingdom of God. Neither did they have ears to hear as Zechariah 7:11 says: "11But they refused to hearken, and pulled away the shoulder, and stopped their ears, that they should not hear." But Israel as a nation will be saved by grace alone at the return of their Messiah, our Lord Jesus Christ who shall rule from the throne of David in Jerusalem. Pastor "B"

*The Bible Speaks* is a paid advertisement and does not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of the Crawford County Avalanche

## Church Directory

Christian Science Society 209 First St. - Suite 103 - Gaylord (989) 732-7001	Sunday Service ..... 10:30 am April through October	Sunday Worship Service ..... 11:30 am Calvary Baptist Church Pastor: Dr. Robert Barnett M-72 West, Grayling - (989) 348-9220
Michelson Memorial United Methodist Church • Pastor: Dr. William A. Cargill 400 Michigan Ave. - (989) 348-2974 www.michelsonmemorial.org - Barrier Free Traditional Service ..... 9 am	2nd & 4th Wednesday ..... 7 pm Sunday School ..... 10:30 am	Sunday School ..... 9:45 am Morning Worship ..... 10:30 am Evening Worship ..... 6 pm Wednesday ..... 7 pm Prayer & Awana Club (Wed.) ..... 7 pm
Adult Sunday School ..... 10 am Modern Service ..... 11 am (Childcare Available)		Wednesday ..... 7 pm
Seventh Day Adventist Pastor: Bela Kober (989) 348-1909 • Services held Saturday at Camp Ausable off M-72 East (1st building on right inside camp entrance)	Sunday School ..... 9:15 am Sunday Worship ..... 10:30 am	Church of Christ Old US-27 at Skyline Rd.
Saturday Church Service ..... 9:30 am Saturday Sabbath School ..... 10:30 am Tuesday Prayer Meeting ..... 7 pm	First Baptist Church of Frederic Pastor: Dale Hammond Sunday School ..... 9:45 am Morning Worship ..... 11 am Evening Worship ..... 6 pm Wed. Prayer & Bible Study ..... 7 pm	In Search of the Lord's Way Sunday Mornings on TV 29 & 8 ..... 7:30 am Sunday Classes ..... 10 am Sunday Worship ..... 11 am Sunday Evening ..... 6 pm Is Sunday Evening of every month there is no service Midweek Bible Study (Wed.) ..... 6 pm
Loveless Community Chapel (Bible based and non-denominational) Pastor: Larry Hankins 8133 Bald Hill Rd. - Lovells (989) 348-2701	Unity Church of Today North Minister: Terry Dickinson Virtual Church - an E-mail Bible Study available at <a href="http://thurd@freeway.net">thurd@freeway.net</a>	Abundant Life Tabernacle Pastor: Lyle Studer 211 Shellenberger St. - (989) 348-5325 Sunday School ..... 10 am Sunday Worship ..... 11 am & 6 pm Wednesday Evening ..... 7 pm
Sunday School (youth & adult) ..... 9:30 am Morning Worship ..... 11 am Wed Prayer & Bible Study ..... 7-8 pm	Luzerne Baptist Pastor: James Durfee • 2247 Durfee Lane Sunday School ..... 10 am Sunday Morning Worship ..... 11 am Sunday Evening Worship ..... 6 pm Wednesday Bible Study ..... 7 pm	Grayling Baptist Church Affiliated with S.R.C. Pastor: Fred Seidler - (763) 543-7988 705 Madson St., Grayling - (989) 348-2557 Sunday School ..... 9:45 am Morning Worship ..... 11 am Evening Service ..... 6 pm Wednesday Service ..... 7 pm
Grayling Free Methodist Pastor: Rick Secord 6652 M-72 West - (989) 348-9093	Burning Bush Tabernacle Pastor: Robert D. Kling - (989) 348-1278 501 E. Michigan Ave., Grayling	Bear Lake Christian Pastor: David Rosenberg Associate Pastor: Scott Hoffer M-72 & East Bear Lake Rd.
Early Service ..... 8:30 am Sunday School ..... 10 am Morning Service ..... 11 am Prayer Meeting (Wednesday) ..... 7 pm	Sunday School ..... 10 am Sunday Morning Worship ..... 11 am Wednesday Evening Service Worship & Prayer ..... 7 pm	Sunday Church Service ..... 10 am - 6:30 pm Sunday School ..... 9 am Bible Study (Wed.) ..... 6:30 pm Youth Group 2nd & 4th Wed. ..... 6:30 pm
Emma Lowery United Church of Christ 3474 West Park Road, Luzerne Sunday Worship ..... 11 am Adult & Youth Sunday School ..... 9:30 am	Community of Christ Pastor: Ann Doty • North Down River Rd. at 1030 Glenn Rd. - (989) 348-9751 Church School ..... 9:45 am Preaching ..... 11 am Midweek Service Prayer ..... 7 pm	Church Alive Church of God Pastor: David Barker 506 North Birch St., Kalkaska (231) 258-3448 Sunday School ..... 10 am Worship Service ..... 11 am & 6 pm Family Training Hour & Prayer (Wednesday) ..... 7 pm
Heritage Baptist Pastor: Eric Wagner - (989) 348-5558 heritagebaptist-grayling.org 1841 Hartwick Pines Rd. (1/4 mile west of I-75)	St. Mary's Roman Catholic Community Pastor: Rev. James Beatts Associate Pastor: Peter Eke Parish Office - 707 Spruce (989) 348-7657	St. Martin Ev. Lutheran (WELS) Pastor: Adam Seehow The Roscommon Community Center, 510 South St., Roscommon, MI 48653 Phone number (989) 275-3070 Sunday ..... 9 am
Sunday School ..... 9:45 am Morning Worship ..... 11 am Afternoon Worship ..... 12:45 pm Wednesday ..... 7 pm	Saturday Evening Masses ..... 4:30 pm Sunday Masses ..... 10 am	Sunday School ..... 9 am Morning Worship ..... 10 am Tue. Women's Bible Study ..... 10 am Wed. Men's Bible Study ..... Noon
Grayling Assembly of God Pastor: Gary Wojahn 701 S. I-75 Business Loop Parsonage (989) 348-7466	St. Francis Episcopal Reverend Elizabeth Chace M-72 West - Office (989) 348-5850	Frederick Worship Center 6464 Old U.S. 27 Frederick Pastor: Gary Thompson (989) 422-3464 • (989) 348-5712 Sunday Service ..... 11 am
Sunday School ..... 9:30 am Morning Worship ..... 10:30 am Evening Service ..... 6 pm Family Night Adult-Youth Children (Wed.) ..... 7 pm	Morning Prayer Tue-Fri ..... 8:30 am Eucharist (Wed.) ..... 8:30 am Sunday Holy Eucharist ..... 8:30 & 10:30 am	The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints President: David Stephenson 600 North Elm Street, Gaylord Sacrament ..... 10 am Sunday School ..... 11 am Primary ..... 11 am Priesthood ..... Noon Relief Society ..... Noon
The Church of Christ with the Elijah Message 7662 Kelly Ave., Frederic Sunday Worship ..... 10 am	Resurrection Life Center Pastor: Bud & Debbie Mann Mail: 2640 M-72 West Grayling, MI 49738 <a href="http://reslifecenter.com">reslifecenter.com</a> • Phone: (989) 348-1000 Sunday Service ..... 10:30 am Midweek Services (Wed.) ..... 7 pm E-mail: <a href="mailto:reslifecenter@hotmail.com">reslifecenter@hotmail.com</a>	Grayling Evangelical Free Church Pastor: Dave Schulz 557 South I-75 Business Loop (Across from the army airfield) Phone: (989) 399-6716 pastordave@graylingfreechurchn.org Sunday Service ..... 10 am <a href="http://www.graylingfreechurchn.org">www.graylingfreechurchn.org</a>
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Sunday Worship ..... 11 am		

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## Obituaries

### Ingrid Fritz

Ingrid Fritz, 79 of Grayling passed away on April 10, 2010.

She was born April 7, 1931 in Helgoland, Germany. She loved taking long walks with her dog, loved working in the yard and collecting rocks. She enjoyed every moment of her life and lived life to the fullest. She was a wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother.

She is survived by her husband Helmuth Fritz; daughter, Christel (Ron) Herman; grandchildren: Mike Gorski (Julie Hall), Joe (Heather) Gorski, and Tracey Gorski (Bill Weaver); great-grandchildren: Christopher Dudzinski, Michayla Hall Gorski, Autumn Roessle, Joey Gorski and Summer Gorski.

Preceding her in death, her mother Paula Huss, brothers Richard Huss, Claus Huss.

A memorial service will be held at Calvary Baptist Church 6504 W M-72, Grayling, on Friday, April 16, at 11 a.m. with Pastor Barnett officiating.

Arrangements entrusted to Sorenson-Lockwood Funeral Home. Condolences may be to [www.sorensonlockwood.com](http://www.sorensonlockwood.com).

### Linda Gorney

Linda M. Gorney, age 66, passed away Friday, April 2, 2010 at the Huron Medical Center in Bad Axe.

She was born August 6, 1943, to the late Joseph and Josephine Gorney. She graduated from Our Lady of Lake Huron Catholic School in 1961 and from Mercy School of Nursing, in 1963.

Linda spent nearly all her nursing career as an emergency room nurse at Mercy Hospital Grayling, retiring in 2002. She loved spending time with her family, friends, her dog and cats, and enjoyed traveling to various destinations in the U.S., but always had a special place in her heart for Montana.

She is survived by brother, Richard (Barbara) Gorney of Harbor Beach; many nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, and cousins.

A funeral Mass was celebrated at Our Lady of Lake Huron Catholic Church on April 6 in Harbor Beach.

Memorial donations may be made to AuSable Valley Animal Shelter in Grayling.



### Kathleen Kangas

Kathleen Gertrude Kangas of St. Clair, Mo., formerly Grayling, departed this life in Washington, Mo. on March 7, 2010 having reached the age of 92.

Kathleen was born in Davidson, Saskatchewan, Canada on December 18, 1917. On August 14, 1937, she was united in marriage to Johannes Nester Kangas and three children came to bless this union.

Kathleen moved to the United States at the age of seven. She was about 40 when she became a naturalized citizen. She was a devoted Catholic and member of St. Clare Catholic Church in St. Clair.

A kind, sweet and loving mother, mother-in-law, grandmother, great and great-great-grandmother, sister, sister-in-law, aunt, great, great-great and great-great-great-aunt, cousin and friend, she will be sadly missed and lovingly remembered by all who knew and loved her.

She is survived by her children: Ann Atwell and husband, Orville, of Kingston, Margaret Heard and husband, Dupree, of St. Clair, Allen Kangas and wife, Pat, of Grayling; by 11 grandchildren; one sister; 16 great-grandchildren; 18 great-great-grandchildren; two sisters-in-laws; nieces; nephews; great-great and great-great-nieces and nephews; cousins; other relatives and many friends.

A funeral mass was held on March 11, 2010 at St. Clare Catholic Church in St. Clair. Interment will take place at noon on April 17, 2010 at Elmwood Cemetery in Grayling. Memorials may be made to St. Clare Catholic Services.

### Card of Thanks

The family of Cecilia Cinciala would like to take this time to thank everyone for their prayers and thoughtfulness during our loss. The many cards and flowers were very appreciated. A special thank you goes to Mercy Hospice, she so enjoyed the times she

### Leota Ingram

Leota "Oats" Marie (Haemmerlein) Ingram, age 87, of Grayling, went home to be with the Lord on April 10, 2010.

She was born in Unionville on June 19, 1922. Leota married in 1941 and had two children, Dianne and Robert. She later married Hubert Ingram in January of 1957 and had one child, Penny. She graduated from Beecher High School in 1941 and lived in that area for much of her life. She worked several years at Beecher Department Store and later at Fisher Body Ternstedts for 15 years. She retired with her husband to Grayling in 1978.

She was a member of St. Mary's Catholic Church, the Eagles and the American Legion for over 30 years.

She leaves to cherish her memory her devoted husband, Hubert of Grayling; daughter Dianne (Ray) Lancaster of Flint; son Robert (Ruth) Marshall of Flushing and daughter Penny (Dave) O'Toole of St. Charles. Also surviving are 10 grandchildren, seven great-grandkids and one great-grandson; siblings: Viola Rushton, Eldon Haemmerlein and Joyce Harrison.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Lila and Roy Haemmerlein; brothers, Lovell and Marvin Haemmerlein; a sister, Delores Visnaw and a grandson, Noah Lancaster.

Funeral services will be held on April 14, at 1:00 p.m., at St. Mary's Catholic Church, Grayling. Interment will follow at Elmwood Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to St. Mary's Church or Mercy Hospice. A special thanks to Mercy Hospice and dear friend in Christ, Patti Quinlan. Condolences may be sent to [www.sorensonlockwood.com](http://www.sorensonlockwood.com).

Arrangements entrusted to Sorenson-Lockwood Funeral home.

### More Obituaries 7A

spent with these wonderful people. Thank you to Marina Failing, you are such a spirited comfort. Thank you to everyone at Mercy Manor for the wonderful care received while she was here. Thank you to the ladies and gentlemen of St. Mary's for the wonderful lunch that you prepared. Thank you to Sorenson-Lockwood for your kindness and helpfulness.

Children, Grandchildren and Great-grandchildren

Cecilia Cinciala

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HALEAH, FL. - An ingredient often used to treat inflammation in race horse legs, is now back on the market in its original doctor recommended clinical strength formula.

According to a national drug store survey, the formula at one time became so popular that it rose to the top of pharmacy sales for topical pain relievers. But the company marketing the product at the time changed the formula and sales plummeted. One of the inventors of the original formula has brought it back to the market under the trade name ARTH ARREST and says it can relieve pain for millions.

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## Obituaries

### George Wolfe

George Leo Wolfe, 82, of Grayling, passed away April 7, 2010.

George was born in Detroit, on Sept. 23, 1927, the son of the late Joseph Frank and Anna (Walkowiak) Wolfe.

George married the late Delores (Denga) Wolfe on Oct. 21, 1950 in Detroit.

He enjoyed bowling,

fishing and woodworking.

He served in the U.S. Navy during World War II.

George was a member of the VFW, American Legion, D.A.V. and Eagles Club.

He is survived by daughter, Debby (John) Podecerwinsky of Fla.; son, Jeffery (Marianne) Wolfe of Fla.; and grandson, John Podecerwinsky Jr.

He was preceded in death by his parents and wife Delores.

A memorial service will be held in June, 2010 with exact date and location to be announced at later date.

Condolences may be sent to [www.sorensonlockwood.com](http://www.sorensonlockwood.com). Arrangements entrusted to Sorenson-Lockwood Funeral Home, Grayling.

## Library News

Teen Movie Night will be held at the Devereaux Memorial Library on Friday, April 16, at 6:00 p.m. Teens can sign up to see the newly released "New Moon," part of the Twilight series, by calling Connie Meyer at 989-348-9214. Popcorn included.

The Friends of the Crawford County Library

will meet at the Devereaux Memorial Library on Tuesday, April 20, at 10:00 a.m. New members encouraged to join and attend.

Kirtland Community College and the American Place Theatre's Literature Program will present a free live performance of "The Secret Life of Bees," by

Sue Monk Kidd, at the Devereaux Memorial Library on Tuesday, April 20, at 6:30 p.m. This presentation starring Denise Wilbanks and adapted and directed by Wynn Handman is open to the public. Sign-up is required due to limited space. For additional information contact Jane at 348-9214.

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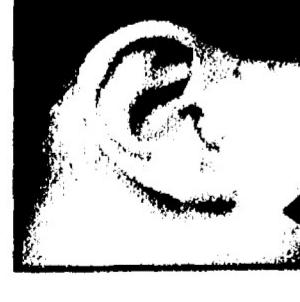
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# Woman left at hospital as newborn baby seeks information

**Continued from 1A**  
was located behind the Bear's Den Pizzeria.

"She was apparently healthy enough that she was kept in hospital for couple of weeks, and she was released into foster care," Sabin said.

Sabin would visit "Little Mary" daily. He and his former wife, Linda, started adoption proceedings, which took six months to complete.

"I didn't have any children then and I just thought I could provide her with a good upbringing," Sabin said.

The late Crawford County Probate Judge Emil Kraus oversaw the adoption proceedings. Little Mary would become Cindy Lu Sabin.

Sherry Sabin, who married David Sabin in 1976, said Kraus was able to move the adoption process along

to get "Little Mary" in the home of a family. With current red tape and adoption laws, Sherry said that would be unheard of today.

"That would not happen today," she said. "There's just no way."

Cindy moved from Grayling with her adopted mother when she was a first grader, but returned when she was 15 years old to live with Dave and Sherry.

Forty years after that snowy January day, the person once known as "Little Mary" is now Cindy Walker. She is married to husband Jason, a commercial building foreman. The couple lives in Phoenix and has two sons, Chase, 11, and Logan, 13.

Walker said that recent family and personal health issues prompted her to seek out medical information on her birth parents or family who may still live in the Grayling area.

"Unless somebody comes forward it's really difficult to get information," Walker said.

Walker hopes that publishing her story in the *Crawford County Avalanche* and turning 40 may prompt someone to come forward

with the information she is seeking. She said those people could choose to remain anonymous, but they could forge a relationship if all parties are comfortable.

"Since I just turned 40,

I'm hoping that if anyone who may know who my birth parents are or has information about any living members of my birth family, maybe this article would trigger something," she said.

Walker said she has no bitterness toward the people who gave her up, especially as news of tragedies of people dumping babies fill the headlines.

"I'm grateful that they were very conscientious and did what they did so somebody would find me," she said.

Walker said she would also be pleased to know some family history for her sons.

"If we find who these people are, it might be nice for the boys to have that gap filled in for them as well," she said.

The Walker family moved from Grand Ledge to Phoenix two years ago. Cindy was involved in the banking industry, but opted to change career paths with the country in the midst of an economic recession. She is now working full-time to obtain her nursing degree.

The family hopes to visit Grayling this summer, perhaps with plans to be in town for the AuSable River Festival and 63rd Weyerhaeuser AuSable River Canoe Marathon.

"It's a nice, quiet little town," Walker said of Grayling.

Even with his connections with his law office and as a former assistant Crawford County Prosecutor, Dave Sabin said he could never pin down information for Cindy.

"We didn't have anywhere to start - that was the problem," he said.

Sherry said that Cindy would look into the eyes of patrons while working at the Grayling Big Boy, thinking she may have spotted her birth parents.

"She would look in somebody's face and just want to have an end to the mystery," Sherry said.

The Sabins said there would be no ramifications if someone comes forward with information for Cindy, stressing that this is simply a search for critical medical information.

"Nobody is more interested than us, finding out what her family health history is, what her genetics are and what health issues she might have in the future," Dave said.

"Nowadays, people make sure their kids know what potential health hazards they might have. It makes them live longer and makes them live better."

Sherry, who said Cindy has done a lot of research for her birth family through the Internet, also prays that Cindy will get the information she is seeking.

"It just blows my mind that no one has come forward or has any information," she said.

Anyone with information is encouraged to contact Walker through her e-mail, which is cindywalker1@cox.net.

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# Health Department officials will serve as smoking police

by Dan Sanderson

Staff Writer

District Health Department #10 officials will be serving as the smoking police when a state ban on smoking goes into effect next month.

Michigan's Clean Indoor Act Bill, which prohibits smoking in bars and restaurants, goes into effect on May 1.

Linda VanGills, the Health Officer for District Health Department #10, said health officials expect restaurant owners, managers and employees will be self-policing to avoid smoking ban fines. A public place, which violates the act, is subject to a civil fine not more than \$100 for a first violation and not more than \$500 for a second of subsequent violation.

VanGills, however, said Health Department inspectors would handle compliance with the smoking ban as part of routine health inspections of restaurants and bars. They will also follow up on complaints submitted to local Health Department offices.

Although Health Departments are not getting added funding to enforce the ban, it is an initiative

they stand behind to improve the health of citizens in the state.

"It's another unfunded mandate, but we were extremely supportive of that and it will be something that we will live with in public health," VanGills said. "The benefit is there and the data is there to show, where restaurants and bars that have gone smoke free, there actually has been a reduction in the incidents of people presenting in emergency rooms with cardiovascular symptoms."

VanGills noted that all employers must offer a smoke-free environment under the state law. Clubs such as American Legions, Moose Lodges, Veterans of Foreign Wars Posts and Eagles Clubs sought an exemption from the ban for their buildings, but VanGills said the smoking ban still applied to those facilities.

"They are not exempt because they are employers," VanGills said. Crawford County Commissioner Rick Anderson said the fraternal and civic clubs were seeking the exemption because they are membership-based.

"They're going under the

guise that they're a club, an organizational club with membership, so they would be unenforceable," Anderson said.

VanGills said that cigar bars and casinos were exempt from the ban.

"There's a compromise in whatever you do," she said.

VanGills said 30 percent of adults in Crawford County are smokers. She said state officials would like to see that rate drop to 22 percent. VanGills added that all 10 counties covered by District Health Department #10 have high rates of adult smokers as well as women who smoke during their pregnancies.

VanGills noted that those statistics are due to the counties being in rural environments, where people

have a lower economic status, higher unemployment rates and lower access to primary health care.

Finally, VanGills said Crawford County ranked 53rd in the state as far as morbidity and mortality rates. Mortality is when people die prematurely, while morbidity accounts for people who experience higher illness rates.

She said that Clare County ranked the worst in the state for morbidity and mortality rates.

Again, VanGills attributed those statistics to economic status.

"If you don't have education, if you don't have a job, if you don't have access to health care, those are going to affect your health outcomes," she said.

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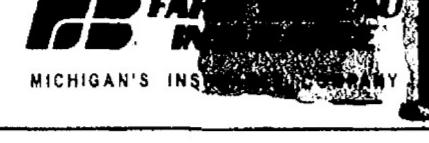
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Crawford County Avalanche

**Sports**

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# Girls tennis to return as a spring sport this year

Vikings to start season with meet at Boyne next week

by Caleb Casey  
*Senior Staff Writer*

After going through sea-

son changes, cancellations, and a fusion with the boys tennis team, girls tennis is now back as a varsity sport at Grayling High School.

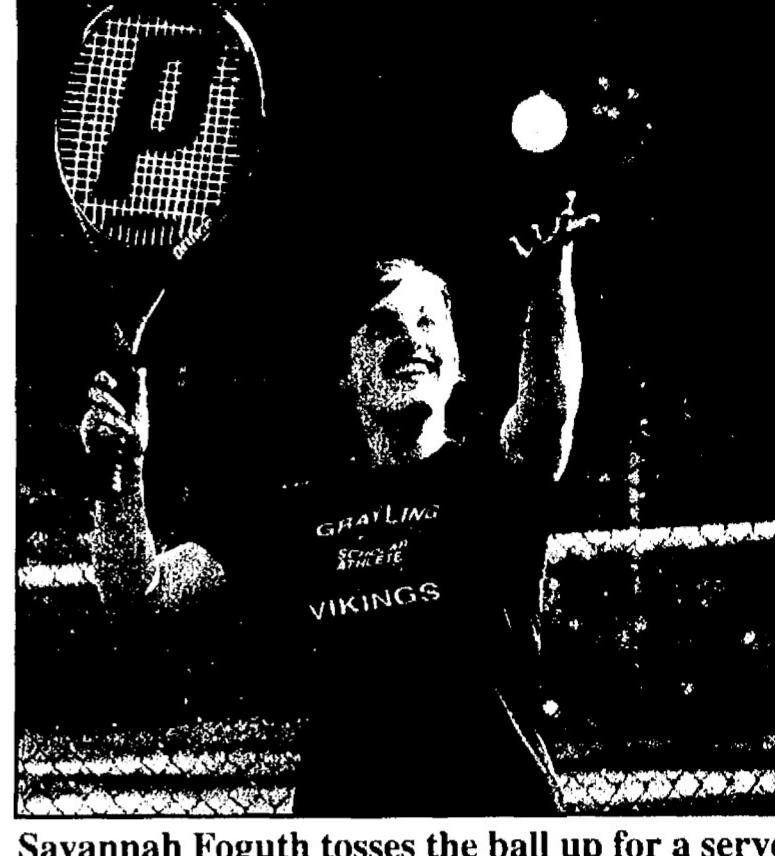
In 2007, girls tennis moved to the spring and boys tennis moved to the fall during the Michigan High School Athletic Association's season realignment effort, a series of moves prompted by a court ruling in a gender equity lawsuit. Also in 2007, Grayling High School cut girls tennis but encouraged its female tennis players to play on a coed team in the fall with the boys tennis program. In the fall of 2009, the boys/coed tennis season was canceled due to low player numbers, but GHS opted to try a revival of girls tennis in the spring, as long as there were enough participants.

The 2010 girls tennis program had 17 players going into spring break (April 2-12). Fourteen - eight for four doubles teams and four for four singles events - are required for a full starting lineup at meets.

"Team overall numbers are great with a total of 17 players coming out for the tennis team this spring," Coach Scott Baker said.

This year's team includes: (freshmen) Rachel Jensen, Dani Dami, Brittney Turner, Gloria Neilson; (sophomores) Myrissa Kuhn, Katie Fitzpatrick, Kayla Stanley, Alex Robson, Savannah Port; (juniors) Alyssa Wilson, Alicia Dickerson; (seniors) Sierra Williamson, Chynna Williamson, Alicia Stanley, Savannah Foguth, Abbey Troumbley, Chelsea Mott.

Coach Baker said the team's goals this year



Savannah Foguth tosses the ball up for a serve during a recent tennis practice at GHS.

include: "To be competitive with the other schools in our conference, to maintain positive attitudes throughout the season, to improve overall tennis skills as the season progresses, (and) to win at least half of (our) tennis matches this season."

Coach Baker said he hopes the squad will "stay competitive and become a great team, where all team members have no regrets at the end of the season and that each player will build friendships that will last a lifetime."

"Our biggest strength this season is the team's overall numbers. With so many girls playing this year, they have already begun to push each other in practice, thus making each other better players. We have a few girls on the team that are really starting to take on leadership roles, which is terrific to see," Coach Baker said.

"The one thing that our players need to work on improving as practices

progress is their level of focus throughout the entire practice. As the season gets under way with matches beginning on April 20, I have emphasized that I want the girls to stay mentally strong all season long," Coach Baker said.

The Vikings will compete at Boyne City on Tuesday, April 20, at 4:30 p.m. The team's first home meet of the year is slated for Tuesday, May 11, at 4:30 p.m.

"I'm extremely proud of the way the girls recruited players during the winter sports season in order for us to have a girls tennis team this spring," Coach Baker said. "Their willingness to get out on the courts and learn as much as they can in practice and their eagerness to improve daily is a bonus for our team and definitely a positive start to our season. I'm very excited to get the matches under way in our conference to see where we stand as a team."

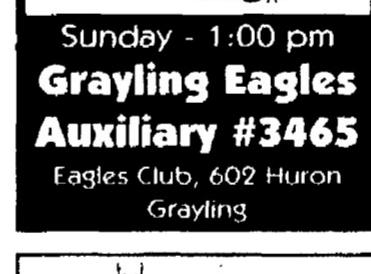
## Bowling Leagues

Senior League	
Dana Transport.	47.5 - 12.5
Flowers By Josie	33.5 - 26.5
Lone Pine	22 - 38
High Series Women:	D. Hollis, 486; H. Stairs, 480;
	M. Ryssy, 479. High Game Women: D. Hollis, 188; M. Ryssy, 181; P. Harris, 175.
Series Men:	L. Wyatt, 553; L. Crampton, 498; J. Campbell, 486. High Game Men: B. Holton, 203; J. Campbell, 202; L. Wyatt, 189.

**Friday Mixed Doubles**  
L & L Hauling . . . . . 61 - 33  
Dharma Music . . . . . 55 - 41  
American Legion . . . . . 54 - 41  
Hill Top . . . . . 50 - 43  
Northern Lawn . . . . . 48 - 48  
Double Trouble . . . . . 46 - 53  
Don Nester . . . . . 43 - 54  
Moshier Auto . . . . . 35 - 58

High Series Women: P. Younglove, 592; B. MacKinnon, 482; T. Benardo, 476. High Game Women: P. Younglove, 235; B. MacKinnon, 187; T. Benardo, 185. High Series Men: F. Periard, 604; P. Benardo, 589; G. Mastroeni, 583. High Game Men: P. Benardo, 238; F. Periard and G. Mastroeni, 228.

*More Bowling 11A*



Sunday - 1:00 pm  
**Grayling Eagles Auxiliary #3465**  
Eagles Club, 602 Huron Grayling

**2010 Grayling Regional Chamber of Commerce Golf Outing**  
At Forest Dunes Golf Club, Thursday May 20th. Shotgun start at 1:00pm. NY steak and shrimp dinner at 6:30 pm

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# Crawford County Avalanche Sports

[www.crawfordcountyavalanche.com](http://www.crawfordcountyavalanche.com)

## GHS golfers get ready for 2010 season

Team's first meet slated for Thursday, April 15

by Caleb Casey

Senior Staff Writer

Grayling High School's varsity boys golf team has a new coach this year and a solid foundation of upper-classmen, including one senior who placed second at the state finals last year.

Dan DesEnfants, who's been an assistant coach for the GHS varsity baseball team for the last few seasons, is the new coach of the golf squad.

With the favorable weather prior to spring break, the Vikings were able to get out on the course during their preseason workouts. Coach DesEnfants said their initial practices included "lots of work at the driving range."

"You get better at golf on the range. You apply it on the course. I tell the boys to play down the middle. It's not about how far you hit it. Very tough to convince guys. They all want to kill it," Coach DesEnfants said.

The Lake Michigan Conference - Grayling's athletic league - usually has several strong teams.

"Charlevoix is returning their whole state qualifier team from last year and

(Traverse City) St. Francis is always tough," Coach DesEnfants said.

"Our goals for the season are to finish in the top half of the conference standings and to qualify for the state tournament," Coach DesEnfants said. "We have missed states as a team by only a couple of strokes each year, so that is a realistic goal. Taylor (DesEnfants) made it as an individual qualifier last year."

Coach DesEnfants said the team's key players this year will include:

T. DesEnfants, senior. He qualified for the state finals last year individually, was tied for the lead after the two-day state tournament, and ended up finishing second after a sudden death playoff. "(A) 70s player that plays very consistent. Four-year starter. Team captain. Individual state finals runner up. College golf ahead," Coach DesEnfants said.

Josh Johnson, senior. "Senior with lots of experience. I've seen big improvements in his game, and (he) will add another low scoring player to the mix," Coach



Josh Johnson hits a drive during a recent practice at the Grayling Country Club.

DesEnfants said.

Dakota Peterson, junior. "Loves the game. Lots of tournament experience. If he can be more consistent this year the team will go far," Coach DesEnfants said.

Tyler Brigham, junior. "When he's on, he strikes the ball as good as anyone on the team. Another player with a big upside," Coach DesEnfants said.

Tyler Hanson, senior. "Somewhat new to the game, but plays down the middle as much as anyone. Brings his competitive spirit to the team from his other

sports. A great asset," Coach DesEnfants said.

Mason Krey, freshman. "Plays like a senior. Lots of potential. Reminds me of Taylor a few years ago," Coach DesEnfants said.

The Vikings will play at Houghton Lake on Thursday, April 15. On Monday, April 19, the team will play in a league meet at East Jordan.

"If the kids work on playing within themselves, and not fall into the 'grit it and rip it' mentality, we'll be a good team," Coach DesEnfants said.

## Bowling Leagues

### Thursday Morning Coffee

Bill's Harem . . . . . 30.5 - 21.5  
Thanks "A Latte" . . . . . 30 - 22  
Snow Tops . . . . . 27 - 25  
Bowling Buds . . . . . 26.5 - 25.5  
Casino Bums . . . . . 26 - 26  
Wanna Bees . . . . . 24 - 28  
Fearless . . . . . 24 - 28  
Ladybugs . . . . . 20 - 32  
High Series Women: P. Kennedy, 503; N. Glasslee, 478; P. Younglove, 469; J. Leask, 443. High Game Women: P. Kennedy, 190; H. Stairs, 178; P. Younglove, 172; A. Stanley, 159. High Series Men: D. Williamson, 530; E. Brosky, 529; H.

Blake, 513. High Game Men: D. Williamson, 197; H. Blake, 196; E. Brosky, 190.

### Pioneer League

Legion . . . . . 37 - 19  
T.C. Lawncare . . . . . 35 - 21  
Ole Dam . . . . . 35 - 21

197; D. Calkins, 195.

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## Pool League

### Men's Championship

The championship for Grayling's men's pool league was recently decided with a three-team playoff. Legion, Growlers and Two Track I tied for first.

In the three-team playoff, Two Track got a bye and Growlers defeated Legion 10-7. Growlers clinched first place with a 10-8 win vs. Two Track.

## Legal Action

### STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT CRAWFORD COUNTY OF CRAWFORD NOTICE TO CREDITORS Decedent's Estate FILE NO. 10-7729-DE

Estate of John Joseph Pillaro, Jr. Date of birth: 1/22/1962.

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS:**  
The decedent, John Joseph Pillaro, Jr., who lived at 162 W. North Down River Rd., Grayling, Michigan died 02-

21-2010. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Melonic Richardson, named personal representative or to both the probate court at 200 W. Michigan Ave. Grayling and the named/proposed personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

Date 3-30-10

Attorney  
Adam T. Vernon  
2373 S. I-75 Business Loop  
PO Drawer 665  
Grayling, MI 49738  
(989)348-5232

Personal Representative  
Melonic Richardson  
94 W. North Down River Rd.  
Grayling, MI 49738

**NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE**

THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE AT THE NUMBER BELOW IF YOU ARE IN ACTIVE MILITARY DUTY.

ATTN PURCHASERS: This sale may be rescinded by the foreclo-

ing mortgagee. In that event, your damages, if any, shall be limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest.

**MORTGAGE SALE:** Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Timothy R. Myers, Jr., a married man joined by his wife, Brenda J. Myers, original mortgagor(s), to JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., Mortgagee, dated September 14, 2007, and recorded on September 20, 2007 in Liber 688 on Page 616, in Crawford county records, Michigan, and assigned by said Mortgagee to Chase Home Finance LLC as assignee, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Seventy-Three Thousand Five Hundred Seventy-Nine And 56/100 Dollars (\$73,579.56), including interest at

.8

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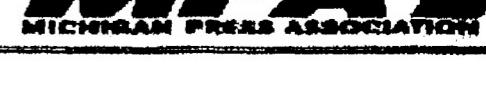
7% per annum.  
Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public vendue, at the place of holding the circuit court within Crawford County, at 10:00 AM, on May 12, 2010.  
Said premises are situated in Township of South Branch, Crawford County, Michigan, and are described as: A part of the Southeast 1/4 of the Northwest 1/4 of Section 7, Town 25 North, Range 2 West: Commencing at the Center 1/4 corner of said Section 7 and running thence North 88 degrees 00' West on the 1/4 line 1082.8 feet to the point of beginning; thence North 88 degrees 00' West on 1/4 line, 150 feet; thence North 2 degrees 00' East, 300 feet; thence South 88 degrees 00' East, 150 feet; thence South 2 degrees 00' West, 300 feet to the Point of Beginning.  
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.  
Dated: April 8, 2010  
For more information, please call:  
FC S (248) 593-1304  
Trott & Trott, P.C.  
Attorneys For Servicer  
31440 Northwestern Highway,  
Suite 200  
Farmington Hills, Michigan 48334-  
2525  
File #309888F02

-8-15-22-29

# PUBLIC NOTICE

Avalanche "Legal Action" pages for Crawford County are now available on-line at [crawfordcountyavalanche.com](http://crawfordcountyavalanche.com)

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## Legal Action

### FORECLOSURE NOTICE

**MORTGAGE SALE** - Default has been made in the conditions of a certain mortgage made by Majestic Hills Development, Inc., a Michigan corporation, Mortgagor, to Wolverine Bank, Mortgagee, dated March 10, 2006, and recorded on March 13, 2006, in Liber 680, on page 165, Crawford County Records, Michigan, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due on the date of this notice the sum of Two Hundred Sixty Two Thousand Nine Hundred Seventy and 64/100 Dollars (\$262,970.64), including interest accruing at 25.00% per annum.

Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue, at the front door to the County Building in Grayling, Michigan, at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, May 12, 2010. The Mortgagor will apply the sales proceeds to the debt secured by the Mortgage as stated above, plus interest accruing at 25.00% per annum, all legal costs and expenses, including attorney fees allowed by law; and also any amount paid by the Mortgagor to protect its interest in the property. The land subject to the mortgage is described as follows:

Said premises are situated in the Township of Beaver, County of Crawford, State of Michigan, described as follows:

Unit(s) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 12, 13, 14, 16, 17, 18, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26 and 27 of Majestic Hills Court Condominium, a condominium established by Master Deed, recorded in Liber 676, Page(s) 84, Crawford County Records, and being designated as Crawford County Condominium Subdivision Plan No. 16, as amended, with rights in the general common elements and limited common elements as set forth in the Master Deed and as described in Act 59 of the Public Acts of Michigan of 1978, as amended.

Tax Parcel ID Nos.: 052-350-000-001-00 (Unit 1); 052-350-000-002-00 (Unit 2); 052-350-000-003-00 (Unit 3); 052-350-000-004-00 (Unit 4); 052-350-000-005-00 (Unit 5); 052-350-000-012-00 (Unit 12); 052-350-000-013-00 (Unit 13); 052-350-000-014-00 (Unit 14); 052-350-000-016-00 (Unit 16); 052-350-000-017-00 (Unit 17); 052-350-000-018-00 (Unit 18); 052-350-000-020-00 (Unit 20); 052-350-000-021-00 (Unit 21); 052-350-000-022-00 (Unit 22); 052-350-000-023-00 (Unit 23); 052-350-000-024-00 (Unit 24); 052-350-000-025-00 (Unit 25); 052-350-000-026-00 (Unit 26); and 052-350-000-027-00 (Unit 27)

Together with all equipment, fixtures and articles of personal property now or hereafter attached to or used in or about the land and improvements, including all Personal Property as defined in the Mortgage.

The redemption period shall be six (6) months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be thirty (30) days from the date of such sale.

Dated: April 8, 2010

Wolverine Bank, Mortgagor  
Simon, Galasso & Frantz, PLC  
Attorneys for Mortgagor  
Robert S. Bolton, Esq.  
363 W. Big Beaver Rd., Suite 250  
Troy, MI 48084  
(248) 720-0290

-8-15-22-29-6

### NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

### NOTICE

THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

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THE CRAWFORD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ARE PRESENTLY ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR A VACANCY ON THE HOUSING COMMISSION.

APPLICANTS ARE TO HAVE A GENUINE INTEREST IN THE HOUSING STOCK FOR CRAWFORD COUNTY AND PARTICIPATE IN THE MANY DECISIONS WHICH TAKE PLACE AT MONTHLY MEETINGS.

APPLICATIONS CAN BE OBTAINED FROM AND SUBMITTED TO COUNTY CLERK SANDRA MOORE BY

FRIDAY, APRIL 16, 2010 AT 3:00 P.M. OR MAY BE OBTAINED ON LINE THRU [www.crawfordco.org](http://www.crawfordco.org) AND RETURNED TO CRAWFORD COUNTY CLERK 200 W.

MICHIGAN AVENUE, GRAYLING MI 49738.

SANDRA MOORE

APRIL 5, 2010

USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE AT THE NUMBER BELOW IF YOU ARE IN ACTIVE MILITARY DUTY.

ATTN PURCHASERS: This sale may be rescinded by the foreclosing mortgagee. In that event, your damages, if any, shall be limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest.

MORTGAGE SALE - Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by George K Bindeschat and Kimberly M. Bindeschat Husband and Wife as Joint Tenants, original mortgagor(s), to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns, Mortgagor, dated January 10, 2007 and recorded January 11, 2007 in Liber 684, Page 875, Crawford County Records, Michigan. Said mortgage is now held by Big Home Loans Servicing, LP fka Countrywide Home Loans Servicing LP by assignment. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Fifty-Two Thousand Seven Hundred Sixty-Five and 0/100 Dollars (\$52,765.00) including interest at 6.5% per annum. Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue, at the place of holding the circuit court within Crawford County, at 10:00 AM, on May 5, 2010.

Said premises are situated in Township of Frederic, Crawford County, Michigan, and are described as: Parcel No.1: Being part of the northwest 1/4 of the Northwest 1/4 of Section 2, Town 27 North, Range 4 West, described as Commencing at the Southwest corner of the West 1/2 of the Northwest 1/4 of Section 2, Town 27 North, Range 4 West , thence North 89 degrees 50 minutes East 563.2 feet, thence North 9 degrees 35 minutes East 1323.7 feet, thence North 27 degrees 35 minutes East, 282.85 feet to a stake and the Point of Beginning: thence North 80 degrees 25 minutes West, 100 feet, thence North 16 degrees 42 minutes East 100.8 feet, thence South 80 degrees 25 minutes East, 120 feet, thence South 27 degrees 35 minutes West 105.15 feet to the Point of Beginning. Including all riparian right to the Ausable River on the Westerly side of said Tract of ingress and egress over and across the 30 foot private easements running in a Southerly direction from said tract.

and Parcel No. 2: Commencing at a point which is North 89 degrees 25 minutes 1/2 seconds East, 902.29 feet from the Northwest corner of Section 2, Town 27 North, Range 4 West, thence South 1 degree 55 minutes 06 seconds West, 279.36 feet, thence South 79 degrees 33 minutes 06 seconds East, 33.74 feet, thence South 4 degrees 20 minutes 06 seconds East 179.13 feet, thence South 4 degrees 09 minutes 54 seconds East 400.0 feet, thence South 28 degrees 04 minutes 54 seconds West, 32.0 feet to the Point of Beginning: thence South 79 degrees 55 minutes 06 seconds East, 153.09 feet, thence South 1 degree 00 minutes 20 seconds West, 101.27 feet, thence North 79 degrees 35 minutes 06 seconds West, 201.56 feet thence North 28 degrees 04 minutes 54 seconds East, 105.15 feet to the Point of Beginning being a part of the West 1/2 of the F1 Northwest 1/4 of Section 2, Town 27 North, Range 4 West, Frederic Township, Crawford County, Michigan.

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.

Dated: April 1, 2010

For more information, please call:

FC F (248) 593-1313

Trott & Trott, P.C.

Attorneys For Servicer

31440 Northwestern Highway,

Suite 200

Farmington Hills, Michigan 48334-

2525

File #309903F01

-1-8-15-22

USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE AT THE NUMBER BELOW IF YOU ARE IN ACTIVE MILITARY DUTY. MORTGAGE SALE - Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by John M. Hartman and Sharon K. Hartman, husband and wife, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns, Mortgagor, dated June 25, 2008, and recorded on July 3, 2008 in Liber 692 on Page 232, in Crawford county records, Michigan. Said mortgage is now held by Big Home Loans Servicing, LP fka Countrywide Home Loans Servicing LP by assignment. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Fifty-Two Thousand Seven Hundred Sixty-Five and 0/100 Dollars (\$52,765.00) including interest at 6.5% per annum.

MORTGAGE SALE - Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by George K Bindeschat and Kimberly M. Bindeschat Husband and Wife as Joint Tenants, original mortgagor(s), to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns, Mortgagor, dated January 10, 2007 and recorded January 11, 2007 in Liber 684, Page 875, Crawford County Records, Michigan. Said mortgage is now held by Big Home Loans Servicing, LP fka Countrywide Home Loans Servicing LP by assignment. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Fifty-Two Thousand Seven Hundred Sixty-Five and 0/100 Dollars (\$52,765.00) including interest at 6.5% per annum.

Dated: April 6, 2010

Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. ("MERS"), solely as nominee for lender and lender's successors and assigns,

Mortgagor, dated June 25, 2008, and recorded on July 3, 2008 in Liber 692 on Page 232, in Crawford County Records, Michigan. Said mortgage is now held by Big Home Loans Servicing, LP fka Countrywide Home Loans Servicing LP by assignment. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Fifty-Two Thousand Seven Hundred Sixty-Five and 0/100 Dollars (\$52,765.00) including interest at 6.5% per annum.

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Dated: April 6, 2010

# Features

[www.crawfordcountyavalanche.com](http://www.crawfordcountyavalanche.com)

## A LOOK AT OUR PAST FROM THE PAGES OF THE AVALANCHE



**April 16, 1987** - These four GHS students earned two 1's and three 2's at State Solo and Ensemble. Pictured (from left to right) are Michelle Hallin, Jason Teddy, Crystal Herdon and Amy Hough.

### 23 Years Ago

**April 16, 1987**

The GHS baseball team had a \$140 new Pro Wilson catcher's mitt stolen last week along with an extra large green and white Viking duffel bag.

The Grayling High School Individual Events Team continued its winning ways at the Midland High School Classic Chemic Invitational. The GHS Forensics squad won its fourth team trophy, bringing home top honors in the medium-sized school category.

The top three hitters from Grayling's 1986 squad will lead the Vikings in this year's opener, at Onaway.

Juniors Jeff Palmer and John Kinnee and senior John Meagher are among the 14 lettermen returning.

The Grayling Viking Ski Team held its annual awards banquet on April 1, at which time the top racers were honored for their achievements. The girls team, which placed both fourth in both the Conference and Regional meets, was led by Julie Huss and Cari Longworth. Huss was accorded honors as the girls' fastest skier. The boys team, which placed fifth in the Conference and seventh in the Regional Meet, was led by Jayson Welser, who won honors as the fastest racer.

The Grayling City

Council honored one of their own as Mayor Pro-Tem Robert Golnick was applauded for his 20 years as a councilman.

### 46 Years Ago

**April 16, 1964**

The Grayling Restaurant has just about completed remodeling on its interior, with new floors, restrooms in white and gold, new booths, tables and counter and a remodeled doorway. There is also new linoleum in the kitchen and storage areas. The new color scheme is turquoise and walnut.

Monica Stephan will be the group leader at the Youth Parade of the National Trout Festival on April 24.

A windstorm blew down the big \$2,000 Horseshoe Lake Inn sign, at about 3 p.m. Owner Mickey Novak reported that it sounded as if the roof was falling in. Several trees were downed at Hartwick Pines and also radio and TV aerials were blown down all over the county.

Spring Used Car Specials at Dick Dodge Chevrolet include a 1964 Chevrolet half ton Fleetside pickup, four wheel drive for \$2,395 and a 1961 Rambler American Station Wagon for \$895.

### 69 Years Ago

**April 17, 1941**

Ernie Borchers, well known sportsman, fly fisherman, guide, florist, fly-fisher, in other words a real trout king, is to rule as Kalkaska National Trout King. He hails from Grayling and is known all over the country as a guide and excellent fisherman.

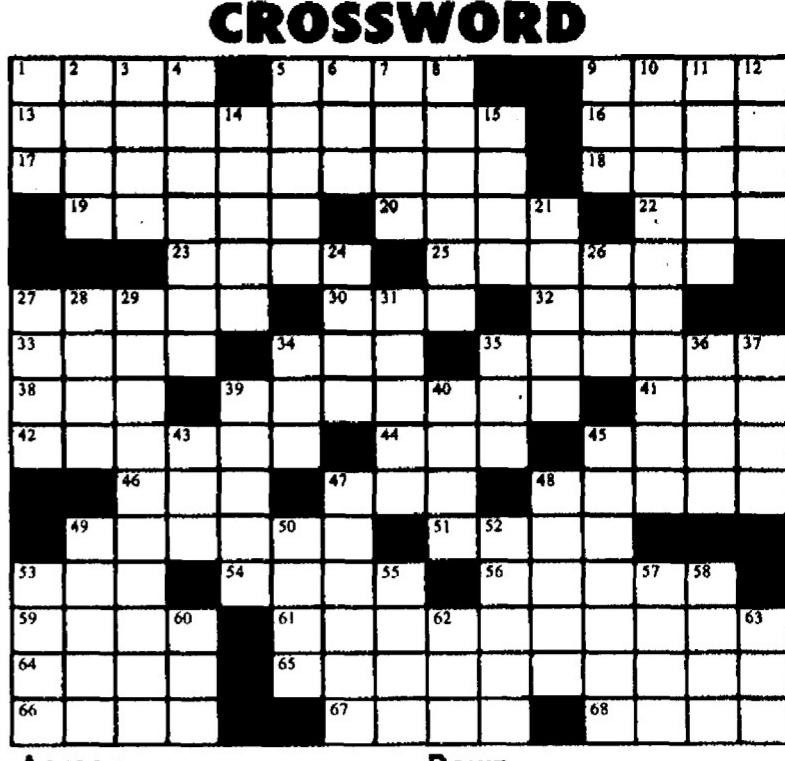
Mr. and Mrs. Ray Metzger and son Arland, have come from Vanderbilt to make their home in Grayling. The former is the new barber at the Walter Cowell barber shop. Mr. Metzger had the misfortune to lose his shop in a fire that destroyed a grocery and beer garden and did damage to the fire hall in Vanderbilt last week.

### 92 Years Ago

**April 18, 1918**

Percy Husted has resigned his position at the Kraus hardware store and is working at the DuPont plant.

The Jensen home and barn in Beaver Creek in the Wellington District, and the outside cellar belonging to A.W. Parker, adjoining, were burned from forest and grass fires last week. There was also some damage done to fruit trees. It was only by vigilant work on the part of the neighbors that the Parker home was saved.

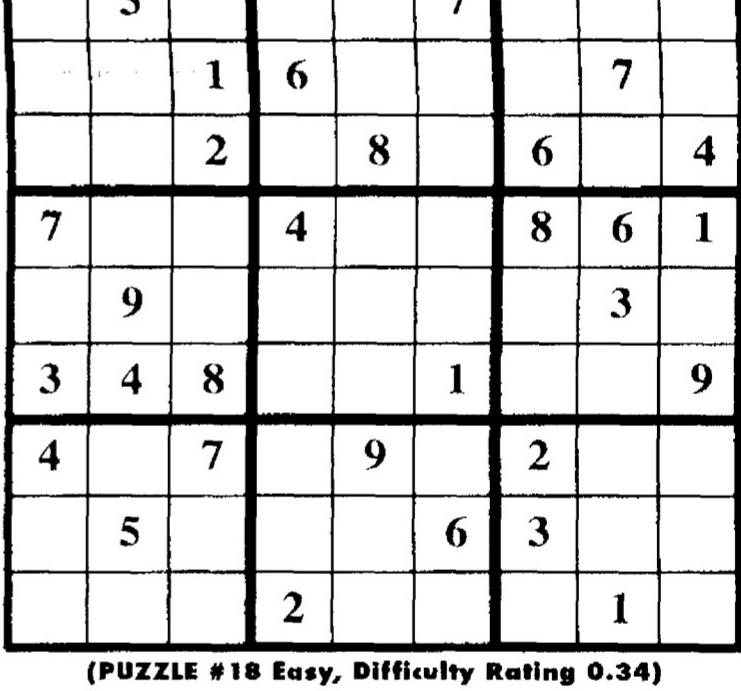


### Across

1. Soft foods
2. "Hard throw, in baseball"
3. "God's Little \_\_\_\_"
4. "Dirty" activity
5. Flooded
6. Utah city
7. Balloon filler
8. Atlantic fish
9. Hard fat
10. "Aladdin" prince
11. Conquered
12. Joints below thighs
13. Available
14. Detective's need
15. Produce
16. H.S. class
17. Bauxite, e.g.
18. Covered with metal guards
19. #1!"
20. Worldliness
21. Bloodless
22. Best seller
23. "The p. in m.p.g."
24. European language
25. Scrawny one
26. Arduous journey
27. Common Market initis.
28. Straightaway
29. Cohost
30. Needles
31. Contradict
32. European freshwater fish
33. Tennyson poem
34. Arise
35. "Major" animal
36. Stage of psychosexual development
37. Brings home
38. Undertake, with "out"
39. Clavell's "\_\_\_\_-Pan"
40. Formerly known as

### SUDOKU

RULES: Fill all empty squares so that the numbers 1 to 9 appear once in each row, column and 3x3 box.



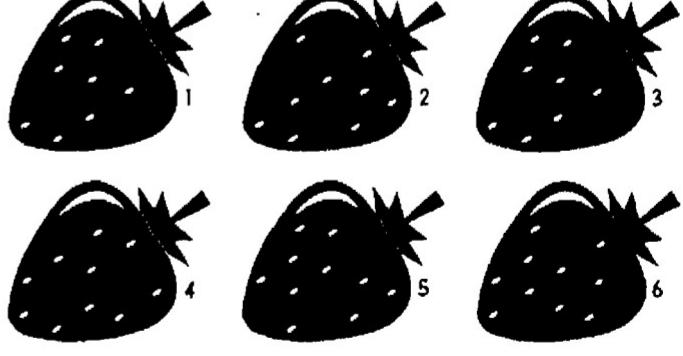
(PUZZLE #18 Easy, Difficulty Rating 0.34)

ANSWERS IN THE CLASSIFIEDS

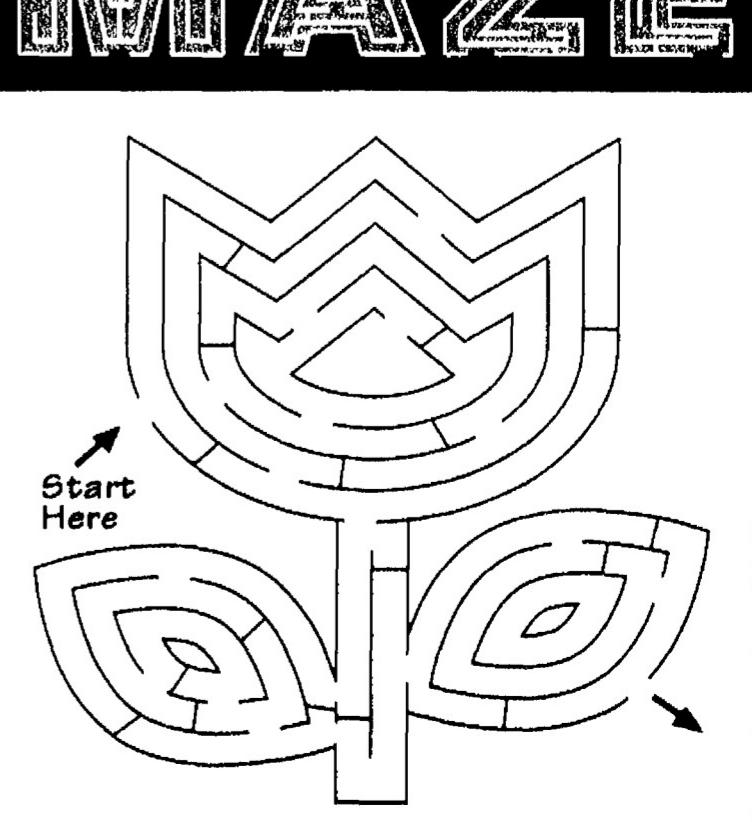


### FIND THE TWINS

WHICH TWO ARE EXACTLY ALIKE?



### MAZE



**ADOPT A PET**

**WE'RE OVERLOADED!** The animal shelter is currently very full of animals in need of loving homes, just like yours. Help these very adoptable pets find homes, adopt today! Visit our website for more information.



**Babe**

Babe is a very special dog looking for a special owner. She is an affectionate and loving dog, is great with every person that she meets and gets along well with most other dogs. She is very friendly and outgoing though she can not live with cats at all! Babe has been spayed, vaccinated and micro-chipped. She just needs a loving new home!

Visit us at: [www.usablevalleyanimalshelter.org](http://www.usablevalleyanimalshelter.org)

Ausable Valley Animal Shelter  
5786 Fairground Lane, Grayling

Use the entrance to the Crawford County Fairgrounds  
Hours: Open 10 to 3 pm Monday through Saturday,  
10 to 12 pm on Sundays and Holidays

After hour appointments available. Call (989) 348-4117  
For more pets or more information, visit our website [www.acsc.petfinder.com](http://www.acsc.petfinder.com)

**WEATHER**

Courtesy of the City of Grayling

**Last Week**

Date	H	I	Rain Inches
4/06	66	45	0.12
4/07	53	44	0.82
4/08	48	33	0.36
4/09	36	26	0.07
4/10	38	20	0
4/11	65	21	0
4/12	60	24	0

**Extended Forecast**

(Courtesy of The Weather.com)

Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
High 65 Low 47	High 66 Low 38	High 59 Low 37	High 62 Low 35	High 60 Low 37	High 58 Low 35
Few Showers Mostly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Sunny	Sunny	Mostly Sunny	

**RECIPE OF THE WEEK**

**BAKED SNAPPER AND TROPICAL SALSA**

#### Ingredients:

- 1 cup Thick 'N Chunky Salsa
- 1 can (8 oz.) pineapple tidbits, drained
- 1 medium firm ripe mango, peeled, pitted and chopped
- 6 cups torn spinach leaves, washed, well dried
- 4 red snapper fillets (4 oz. each)

**Directions:** MIX salsa, pineapple and mango. PLACE spinach evenly in 13x9-inch baking dish; top with fillets. Spoon 2 Tbsp. of the salsa mixture over each fillet; cover with foil. Set remaining salsa mixture aside for serving with fish. BAKE at 450°F for 15 minutes or until fish flakes easily with fork. Serve with reserved salsa mixture.

Prep Time: 10 min  
Total Time: 25 min  
Makes: 4 servings



## 4. Services Offered

**D. HAWES / Driver's Training:** Northern Driving School will be offering classes year-round in Grayling and surrounding areas. The only local driving school in Crawford and Roscommon counties. Segment I \$275, Segment II \$40. 989-344-2470. (05/22/08f/4)

**PROFESSIONAL HEMMING:** jeans, dresses, slacks, etc., weddings. 989-344-2444. (-1-15-6-20-3-17-1-15-5-19/4)

**APPLIANCE AND FURNACE PARTS:** All major brands. Most parts in stock. Appliance Parts 6840 M-72 West, Grayling, across from the Ole Barn. 989-348-5971. Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday, 8 a.m. to noon. (-1-15-22-29/4)

**BUY HERE, PAY HERE:** bad credit, bankruptcy, repos, OK. Easy terms, low down payment. Most monthly payments under \$200. Free loaner cars for the life of your loan. Hundreds of vehicles and thousands of happy customers. Free gas. Call Rich 989-306-3656. (-25-1-8-15/4)

**APPLIANCE REPAIR:** For the best service on all major brand appliances call Hometown Heating and Cooling, Grayling at 989-348-4252. (-09/17/09f/4)

**PERFECT PITCH PIANO TUNING:** Prompt, quality service. Excellent rates. Tom Gulick 989-714-3840, perfectpitch1@verizon.net. (-4/1/10/tf/4)

**ROOFING ROOFING:** Professional work, competitive prices. Repair work welcome. 20 years experience, free estimates. Please call 348-5817, 390-1526. (-LR05/27/10/4)

**NEED A HANDYMAN?** We do most anything. No job too small. Call 348-5817, 390-1526. (-25-1-8-15-22/4)

**NORTHERN LAWN & HOMECARE:** #1 caretaker in northern Michigan. Specializing in cabin cleaning and complete maintenance inside and out. 989-348-5725. (-1-8-15/4)

**IF INTERESTED IN HAVING** your lawn mowed and trimmed this year, contact Ron at 989-344-2053. (-4/1/10/tf/4)

**DAVE'S LAWN SERVICE:** spring and fall cleanups. Free estimates, reasonable rates, 15 years cutting lawns 989-745-3747. (-8-15-22-29/4)

## 4. Services Offered

**BIG WHEEL CONSTRUCTION WE ARE STILL HERE!** Licensed & Insured (989)390-3980 or (989)348-7398 6440 Richard Rd., Grayling MI Owner: Super Dave Reichelderfer

## 4. Services Offered

**I CHARGE** by the job not the hour. Yard work, raking, mowing, painting, auto detailing, washing windows, landscaping. 348-5081. (-8-15-22-29/4)

**CARE TAKER:** lawn mowing, security guard service. Be proud of your castle, call Mike 989-344-0868. (-8-15-22-29/4)

**ANGLES FROM ASHLEY:** at the Hair Station specializing in modern cuts, colors and waxing. We offer \$5 off highlights. Please come and join me Monday, Wednesday or Thursday from 10-4, 989-348-7557. (-8-15-22-29/4)

**GOT DIRTY WINDOW-STM?** Commercial or residential. Free estimates. Call Clearview 989-745-2146, email clearview75@yahoo.com (-8-15-22-29/4)

**FREE ESTIMATES:** reliable spring cleanup. Raking, mowing, trimming, fertilization and light construction. Located in Grayling, call Marj at 989-348-2014. (-8-15/4)

**FREE REMOVAL:** of unwanted washers, dryers, stoves and other miscellaneous scrap metal 989-348-3514. (-15-22/4)

**JERRY'S ONE MAN CREW:** truck & tools, leaf removal, mowing, hauling to landfill, paint & stain, hourly charge, oak firewood, tree work and any other work 989-348-7046. (-15/4)

## 5. For Sale

**THE CLASSIFIED:** The perfect place to buy or sell. (989) 348-6811.

## 8. Announcements

## 5. For Sale

**APPLIANCES NEED HELP?** Call Paul for repair service you can tell your friends about, 348-0167. (-15-22/5)

**AKC BLACK LABRADOR:** puppies taking deposits now. Ready May 6, dew claws, shots and vet checked \$350, 989-350-3483. (-8-15/5)

**\$1,300 12 FOOT ALUMINUM CRAFT:** yacht club trailer Mini Kota electric motor 30 pounds only used a few times, like new. 989-348-4347. (-8-15/5)

**ATV 2006 CAN-AM (BOMBARDIER) 4X4:** heated grips and throttle, wench, tool kit, gun rack, under 100 miles \$4,500. 989-348-4347. (-8-15/5)

**FOR SALE:** Blizzard plow, 7 1/2 foot blade includes mount, lights and hand control. Fits 2500 HD GMAC/Chevy truck. Asking \$3,000 OBO. Portable sheet metal brake, able to bend heavy gauge metal. Asking \$400 OBO, 989-348-3018. (-15/5)

**KENMORE SUPER CAPACITY:** top load washer and dryer, excellent condition has many nice features for all clothes and bedding. Dryer set for propane, wide front door. \$400 for pair. Medical reason, can't go to basement to do laundry anymore, must sell. 989-390-9774. (-15/5)

**WANTED DEAD OR ALIVE:** paying cash for cars and trucks. Cash upon quick pick up. 989-786-3932 or 989-350-6118. (-15-22-29-6/6)

## 6. Wanted

**WANTED DEAD OR ALIVE:** paying cash for cars and trucks. Cash upon quick pick up. 989-786-3932 or 989-350-6118. (-15-22-29-6/6)

## 8. Announcements

## 6. Wanted

**WOW:** Don will pay up to \$300 for junk vehicles, up to \$500 commercial. 231-587-0856 or 888-468-7313. (4/2/09/f/6)

**BUYING SCRAP METAL:** All grades. SMR 989-275-6041. (10/16/08f/6)

**WANTED:** Junk vehicles, will haul, Paying cash. Call Gene at Wakeley's Auto Parts, 989-348-5079. (LR5/6/10/6)

**WANTED TO BUY:** Old postcards, coin collections, bullion, gold, silver etc. Larry Eastley - Old Mr. Postcard, Roscommon. 989-275-4233. (-4-11-18-25-4-11-18-25-1-8-15-22/6)

**BUYING OLD WOODEN DUCKS:** fish decoys and Grumley bows. 248 877-0210. (-1-8-15/6)

## 8. Announcements

**MIP** and anger management programs. GRACE Center, Grayling. 989-348-2544. (10/11/07/f/8)

**HALL FOR RENT:** American Legion Post 106, Grayling. Newly remodeled, smoke free. Contact manager 348-7232. (-7-21-4-18-4-18-1-15-29-13-27-10-24/8)

**COMMUNITY CALENDAR:** Place your organization's events on Crawford County's Community Calendar. Go to [crawfordcountyavalanche.com](http://crawfordcountyavalanche.com), under services, to submit your event. For more information, call our office at 989-348-5618. (-4/1/10/f/8)

## 8. Announcements

**Terry's Sport Center:** For all your Marine & Motorcycle needs, Parts & Accessories. 989-438-2188

## 8. Announcements

**GERTA'S DRAPERYES:** "Everything in Window Treatments." Free estimates and in-home appointments. Established in 1958. Call 989-732-3340 or visit our showroom at 2281 South Otsego Avenue, Gaylord. (3/26/09/f/8)

**FREE SOUP, SALAD & FRUIT:** bar with purchase of all-you-can-eat spaghetti \$7.99, Wednesdays 4 pm - 9 pm, at Grayling Big Boy. (-11/26/09/f/8)

**ON GOING YOGA** and Tai Chi classes with Kaye Thomas-Hogan, Thursday evenings at the Brickey. No classes April 8 & 15. Yoga 5:15 - 6:30 p.m., Tai Chi 6:45 - 7:45 p.m. \$10 drop in fee, \$50 for 6 weeks. Call Kaye 989 348-1722. (-1-8-15-22-29/8)

**ADOPT ELEMENTARY TEACHER MOM &** devoted dad will treasure your newborn. Security, never-ending love and laughter, the brightest future, excellent education and a country home with room to run & play awaits your baby. Expenses paid. Legal. Private. Denise/Don: free call 1-877-206-6518. (-1-8-15-22/8)

**ESTATE & MOVING AUCTION:** April 17, 10 a.m. Perry Creek & M-33 Mio. Furniture, appliances, kitchenware, household, shop related, welders, tools, rototiller, garage & outside, coins & more. View online or call. Lets Talk Auction 989-848-5158, [www.LetsTalkAuction.com](http://www.LetsTalkAuction.com). (-15/8)

**MERCY HOSPITAL BOOK FAIR:** Save up to 70% off retail on books and gifts, including Michigan titles. Monday, April 19, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Tuesday, April 20, from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. Located at Mercy Hospital, just follow signs at the main entrance. Sponsored by Mercy Hospital Auxiliary. (-15/8)

**GET YOUR COOKIE FIX:** Girl Scout cookie sale Saturday, April 17, Glen's Market 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. \$3.50 per box. (-15/8)

**ANONYMOUS ALUMINUM:** presents an underground musical showcase at Dharma Music on April 19, 7 p.m. \$5.00. For more info [anonalam.com](http://anonalam.com) (-15/8)

**AMERICAN LEGION POST 106:** Social night Friday 16, for members and Auxiliary, bring family, playing cards and snacks. Socialize - have fun. (-15/8)

**AVALANCHE OFFICE HOURS:** Mon., Wed., Thurs., & Fri., 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tues. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. 102 Michigan Avenue, Grayling - (989) 348-6811.

## ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

**CITY OF GRAYLING:** P.O. Box 549, 1020 City Boulevard, Grayling, MI 49738-0549. 989-348-2131

Separate sealed BIDS for the construction of: Water main, sanitary sewer, storm sewer, road improvements and other improvements including curb and gutter, sidewalk, fire hydrants, water services and sanitary services in Ingham Street between James and Maple Streets and in AuSable Court will be received by Michele Moshier, City Clerk, at the office of The City of Grayling, 1020 City Blvd., P.O. Box 549, Grayling, MI 49738-0549 until 11:00 am on April 21, 2010 and then at said office publicly opened and read aloud.

The CONTRACT DOCUMENTS may be examined at the following locations: Gosling Czubak Engineering Sciences, Inc., 1280 Business Park Drive, Traverse City, Michigan 49686

Copies of the CONTRACT DOCUMENTS may be obtained at the office of Gosling Czubak Engineering Sciences, Inc., located at 1280 Business Park Drive, Traverse City, Michigan 49686 for the non-refundable fee of \$35.00 per set. \$15.00 additional if mailed.



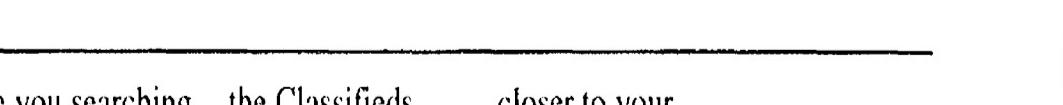
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## 10. Garage Sale

**MOVING SALE** oil lamps \$10, Lazy Boy sleeper couch new \$250, bedroom set complete \$275, queen size mattress set with frame \$100, Zenith TV with DVD and console \$100, portable Bemis humidifier \$40, other miscellaneous, furniture, Sears lawn mower 6 HP new condition \$95, miscellaneous clothing, hunting and fishing equipment, pop-up blinds \$75, Neoprene waders \$50, bows and arrows etc., remote control boats and cars, Tasco telescope with tripod \$100, water fowl art collection, water color and pencil remarked by artist Dan Heuer, 2 way radios, lots of beanie babies with tags on, sport card collection 1960-1980's lots of rare cards entire collection will be offered. No junk, bring lots of cash, April 17 and 18, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day. W. M-72 to Ausable Trail, right on Pollack Bridge, left on Wendy Lane to 757. (-15/10)

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## 11. Automotive

## 10. Garage Sale

**GARAGE SALE** Friday 16, 9 - 5 p.m., Saturday 17, 9 - ? 119 Verner Lane, 1 block west of railroad tracks on M-72 west. (-15/10)

## 11. Automotive

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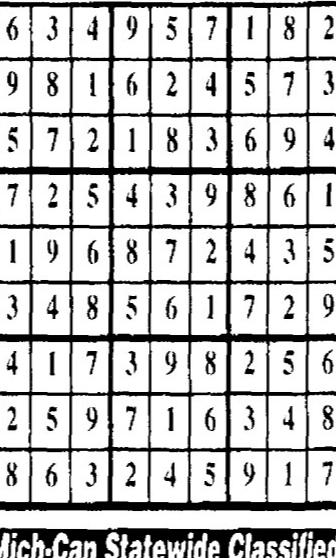
## 8. Announcements

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## County protests state acquiring more land while not paying taxes

## Continued from 1A

county foreclosed on 50 parcels of land on March 1, because the taxes had not been paid for the last three years. Last year, 24 parcels of land were foreclosed upon.

Wakeley said this year's foreclosure rate may be skewed because a man who owned 13 parcels of land in the Twin Peaks subdivision failed to pay his taxes and allowed the property to go into foreclosure proceedings. Wakeley said the county would recover the \$65,400 in taxes owned on the parcels when the county sells the properties.

Since the state has the first right of refusal to purchase foreclosed property, that has become an issue with Wakeley and county treasurers throughout the state.

Wakeley said that the state froze the taxes paid to counties and township at

84.5 percent in 2004. The amount paid to intermediate school districts, colleges and school districts was frozen at 96 percent.

Since the legislation was enacted, Wakeley said the state has also been consistently delinquent on paying swamp tax funds for land that reverted to the state in the 1930s. He said there is 162,000 acres of swamp tax land in Crawford County.

In 2009, Wakeley said state lawmakers also passed a law, which said that partial payment for the taxes to local units of government and entities would be considered as full payment.

Wakeley said that he fully expects the state to decrease the percentages of the taxes it pays local units of government and entities as state revenues decline, the economic recession continues and state lawmakers don't budget

enough to pay its taxes.

"Their ultimate goal is to get it down to zero," he said.

While the county does everything in its power to work with people to help save their property, Wakeley said he would like to provide accommodations like the state is taking to property owners who are struggling to make ends meet.

"We know we have people that would have loved to come in here and paid 84 percent of their tax bills and avoid foreclosure," Wakeley said.

The underpayment in taxes means the county will receive a \$24,000 shortfall from the state for the 2009-10 budget year.

Along with freezing tax payments, Wakeley said state officials passed a law so that local units can't foreclose on property it owns in the counties.

"They pass their own laws and they've made their own rules," he said.

The state, however, still maintains the first right to purchase foreclosed land in the counties - especially for prime parcels of property - instead of counties and local units of government being able to acquire the land to strengthen the tax base.

"They don't want to open it up because they don't want too many fingers in the pot," said Dave Stephenson, chairman of the Crawford County Board of Commissioners.

Wakeley said he knows of at least one county where the state is acquiring foreclosed property. The state must pay full market value for the land.

That prompted the county board to send a letter to the state, opposing the acquisition of more land while it can't pay its current taxes.

"This is just getting to be ridiculous, especially in a county like Crawford with 75 percent of the land that is state owned," Stephenson said.

The board will consider the recommendation to send the letter at its regular monthly meeting set for 9 a.m. on Wednesday, April 21.

Wakeley said that the local officials would be working with the Michigan Association of Counties, Michigan Township's Association and Michigan Treasurer's Association to address the tax inequity.

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